

BUSINESS/BI Peso continues to rally, closes at 52.66 to \$1

■ WORLD/A8 Russia restores gas flow to Europe



- ACROSS/AI4 GMA orders P66M given for Calapan City rehabilitation = 2bU!/CI **Fearless** forecast for 2006

What's cooking? Ramos,

By TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

Drilon, Sotto meet in secret

WHAT'S COOKING ON THE POLITICAL FRONT? Pormer President Pidel V Ramos, Senate

President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vi-

cente Sotto III met clandestinely on the first

working day of the year, fueling speculation



Crime rate down-DILG; victims don't complain-poll



it feedback@inquirer.com.ph

By DJ Yap and Norman Bordadora

THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT choose their victims. Alleged "bukas kotse gang" members broke into the car of the former CRIME/ A6

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

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4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 27

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WHAT'S/A6

PAF graft, unrest bared

Colonel threatened with arrest

By Alcuin Papa

AN AIR FORCE COLONEL YESTERDAY SAID THAT generals and wing commanders in the Philippine Air Force (PAF) were "illegally" receiving monthly allowances of P45,000 each on top of their salaries.

Col. Efren Daquil also confirmed PAF) is authorized to dole out this aigrumbling in the military.

"I have direct knowledge that Air Force generals, the wing commanders, are given P45,000 a month over and above their salaries and other allowances. I would like to know if CG-PAP (commanding general of the

lowance," said Daquil.

The allowance, according to him, is called the Direct Support Fund (DSF.)

Denying Daquil's allegations, the PAF said the colonel would be taken into custody and possibly charged for giving interviews without permission.

Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said Daquil would be restricted to quarters, investigated and possibly charged with violating two Articles of War, specifically conduct unbecoming an officer.

"If truth is unbecoming, then I'm willing to be jailed," said Daquil, former deputy wing commander of the PAF 710th Special Operations Wing based at Clark, Pampanga.

The colonel asked the PAF commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, to explain where P30 million in savings from his (Daquil's) stint as chief PAF GRAFT/ A6

AIR FORCE Col. Efren Daquil talks to a select group of media men during a hastily called news conference yesterday.

LARGER THAN LIFE Tadeo Paima looks wistfully at the remains of his sister, the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, which lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church on Juana Rodriguez St., Quezon City. Palma was the first woman justice of the Supreme Court.

JUDGE'S KILLING

9 suspects held but no brains yet

By Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Armand N. Nocum

CAVITE—SWOOPING down on several houses in a series of raids, government agents yesterday picked up nine people, including the alleged gunman, but failed to get the mastermind behind the murder of Judge Henrick Gingoyon.

The suspected triggerman and two others among those detained in connection with the Saturday killing of Gingoyon were alleged to have been paid P150,000 to carry out the job, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

Police said some of the men were suspected members of a notorious organized crime group operating in Cavite, Metro Manila and nearby towns in the Calabarzon region.

In a news briefing at Camp Pantaleon Garcia here, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao identified seven of those detained as Rodolfo Cruer, the supposed gunman; Rudy Baclor, Filemon "Boy Negro" Rabino, Mark Datas, Rafael Arciaga, Gregorio Ignacio and Etten Samonte.

Lomibao said Cruer was identified by at least four eyewitnesses. An NBI report shown to reporters in Manila listed Cruer's name as "Robel Darocaluer Jr."

Besides the seven mentioned by

9 SUSPECTS/ A7



to Bohol, Or. Negros

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A PROGRAM PROTECTING BOhol's rich coastal resources and a project teaching school children in Oriental Negros how to grow vegetables were chosen as the top local government programs for 2005.

For their efforts, Oriental Negros and Bohol received the top award for continuing excellence from Galing Pook Foundation, which recognizes the best local governance programs in the Philippines. It is a joint program of the Galing Pook Foundation, the Department of Interior and Local Government, through its Local Government Academy, and The Ford Foundation.

'In Bohol, the local government implemented programs to protect its rich coastal resources, revive and preserve its unique cultural heritage, and develop eco-tourism which has put the province on the world tourism map.

In Oriental Negros, the combination of political will and community support resulted in the establishment of barangay agricultural development centers, the revival of gardening and the improvement of nutrition in chil-

TOP POOK! A?

Judge to demand custody of 4 US Marines

By Tonette Orejas and Allan Macatuno PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—THE JUDGE tapped to hear the rape case against four US Marines yesterday said he would demand custody of the accused.

We have to assert our authority." Judge Renato Dilag said, up-

holding the position of the De-partment of Foreign Affairs that government Philippine should have "actual, physical custody" of the Americans.

Dilag said he would review the case records and the Dec. 27 resolution charging the four US servicemen and their Filipino driver with raping a 22-year-old Filipine woman on Nov. 1 at the

Subic Bay Freeport.

If he finds probable cause, he may issue the arrest warrants today or before the arraignment set on Jan. 12, Dilag said.

Citing a provision in the 1999 RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, Dilag said he would leave it to the DFA to officially serve the warrants.

He said he was "not bound" by the statement of Justice Secretary

Raul Gonzalez that the Philippine government should first negotiare for custody of the Americans before serving the warrants.

A DFA official speaking on condition of anonymity said the warrants would be served on the US Embassy at the DFA premises.

This was the same procedure followed in November when the

Oistrict-level officials

Resident focal auditor

Judge is no stranger to controversy

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY-SURPRISED, but not pressured.

That was how Judge Renato Dilag said he felt after yesterday's raffle, when the rape case against four US Marines landed in his sala at the Regional Trial Court

Branch 73 in this city. Dilag noted that the case was "high profile" because it involved four American servicemen-the first to be charged with rape since 1992, when the US naval base at

Subic was closed. He also said he was aware that JUDGE/A4



Actual cost of project

Pork barrel: Pigging out Splans' recommended contractors, suppliers Prequalification. Bidding and Awards

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

FILIPINOS ARE VAGUELY AWARE THAT the pork barrel—that cuphemism for the joint raid on the National Treasury by the President and Congress in the name of infrastructure development-is a source of fat kickbacks for the most dishonorablemembers of Congress.

But until August 1996 when the Inquirer published an award-winning series of articles, the public was largely in the dark about the magnitude of the amounts that regularly went into the pockets of legislators.

The most explosive reports in that series

Second FRONTPAGE

Metre Monita Parity Cloudy Begula Parity Cloudy Partly Cloudy Lorsky Clark Zone Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy

Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains Cloudy wills Rains Cagayan de Bro

Scrapping of Luisita land deal appealed

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMPANY THAT OWNS AND MANAGES THE Cojuangco family's Hacienda Luisita has, as expected, asked the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) to reconsider its decision to revoke its stock distribution option agreement and give away the 4,915-hectare sugar estate to the farm workers.

tual basis to cancel a fulfilled contract, the Hacienda Luisita Inc. said the PARC violated the Constitution and RA 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, when it cancelled Luisita's SDO scheme.

The PARC en banc, the highest decision-maiding body on agrarian reform questions, last month voted to uphold the Department of Agrarian Reform's decision to revoke the 16-year-old SDO agreement between the estate management and the farm workers.

Instead of parceling out and distributing the estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Cojuangeo Aquino, the SDO scheme gave the Luisita farm workers and tenants shares in the company managing the plantation.

But more than 8,000 farm workers at Luisita last year petitioned the DAR to revoke the scheme, alleging violations by the company and claiming their lives had not improved.

In its 34-page motion, the HLI said the nullification or cancellation of the SDO scheme violated Sections 1 and 10, Article 3 of the Constitution which protects against the deprivation of property without due process and the impairment of the obligations of contract.

It said the land was owned by HLI, which has a separate personality from its stockholders, the Cojuangco-owned Tarlac Development Corp. (TDC) and the farm-worker beneficiaries them-

"The taking of its [HLl's] property without hearing and compensation is a denial of the due process clause," the HLI said.

Saying there was no legal or fac- filed the motion for reconsideration before the PARC at 5 p.m. on Monday, beating the 10-day deadline it was given to question the PARC's decision.

> HLI, which has been managing the estate for the past 16 years, insisted there was no legal and factual basis to cancel a contract that had been approved by the PARC and fulfilled by the parties to the agreement.

The HLI said it had finished the distribution of the 118,391 shares of stocks in HLI to the farmer beneficiaries in June 2004, making the farm workers co-owners of a corporation bound by corporate, not agrarian, laws.

"Full and complete execution or performance of the obligations of the TDC and HLI under the SDO [agreement] was done in 2004, yet the DAR has not yet up to now issued any certificate of completion," the HLI said.

"What is more reprehensible is that the DAR and PARC are using By T) Burgonio the DAR's failure to issue a certificare of completion as a reason or ground to grant PARC jurisdiction, power or authority to recall or revoke or multify, cancel or resolve or pletely executed or performed by the parties thereto," it said.

The HLI maintained that nei- pine National Police. ther the PARC nor the Department of Agrarian Reform had jurisdiction over the complaint filed by the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Luisita (Ambala) in October 2003.

"While the power to approve may include the power to disapprove, it does not include the power to recall or revoke the approval after the approved agree-The HLI through its corporate ment has been performed," the



SENATE TRIBUTE. Senate President Franklin Drilon stands next to the casket of the former Senator Robert Barbers at the Senate session hall where former colleagues paid tribute to the late senator. Barbers' family led by his mother, Regina (center), and wife Virginia (partly hidden at left), also attended the necrological rites.

Barbers extolled by ex-colleagues

and Luige A. del Puerto

THE LATE SEN. ROBERT Z. BARbers was extolled yesterday as an efficient lawmaker and enforcer rescind the SDOA after it was com- .and, above all, as a "man for others" by people he worked closely with in the Senate and the Philip-

> In moving rites in the packed Senate session hall in the morning, legislative staff, members of the judiciary, friends and relatives heard eulogies and paid their last respects to Barbers, who was a senator from 1998 to 2004.

Sen. Richard Gordon said Barbers may not have been a lawyer but he "crossed the bar by his efforts at peace and order."

bers' soft spot for the poor. "He was a man of the people... be was a man for others," Gordon said.

Pormer Senator Heherson Alvarez said Barbers "enhanced the law immensely. He did this by being an insightful lawmaker."

Former Sen. Tito Sotto recalled that it was easy to find Barbers' office on the fifth floor because the corridor was always teeming with "people from all walks of life" to whom he "was always willing to lend an attentive ear or a helping hand."

Senate President Franklin Drilon recalled an anecdote about Barbers as a young policeman rushing to the aid of a beggar cradling a boy in his arms who had collapsed in front of him He said the packed Senate ses- in Quiapo. Barbers got down next

thing to eat and drink.

"That dear friends and colleagues was the young Bobby Barbers... That my dear friends is character," Drilon said.

Vice President Noli de Castro and Senators Alfredo Lim and Sergio Osmeña III also delivered eulogies.

Barbers' remains were brought to the Senate at 9:45 a.m. from the Western Police District headquarters in Manila where they had tain overnight after being brought back from his province of Surigao del Norte.

At 2 p.m., Barber's remains were brought to PNP headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City for another overnight vigil. Barbers had spent nearly three decades as a cop before entering politics.

he became a congressman and later a senator, his advocacy had always been peace and order," said his son Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers.

"Secretary Barbers... General Barbers left many legacies (in the police force). We know that even with his last breath, he remained a cop. And we are here to honor him as a policeman," said Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, the PNP deputy chief for adminis-

Barbers died on Dec. 25 of cardiac arrest at the age of 61 after a long bout with throat cancer.

Today his remains will be taken back to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park where they had lain earlier. Tomorrow he will "People will remember him for be buried at noon at the Manila

sion hall was testament to Bar- to the beggar to give him some- his exploits as a cop. Even when Memorial Park in Parañaque City. secretary Emmanuel G. Cochico HLI said. NSPECTION DATES: JAN. 23, 24 & 25, 2006 "NO MINIMUM PRICE" 3-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION SALE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP KOMATSU WA400



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GMA: No revamp of economic team

of the peso, stocks and bonds in 2005, President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided not to tinker with her relatively new economic management team.

In a live news broadcast from Malacañang, the President yesterday was profuse in her praise for her economic managers for maintaining "fiscal discipline" during the politically turbulent 2005, which foreign investors have rewarded by driving up the peso, stock market and Philippine debt papers to higher levels.

I would like to thank the economic team for your good work. Our teamwork is important to sustain these positive economic indica-

tors," said the President. Seen by her side were Finance Secretary Margarito Teves , Budget Secretary Romulo Neri and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mari Buñag, who were all placed in their current posts after the President was all but deserted by her economic managers during the mass resignation of the so-called Hyatt

BUOYED BY THE STERLING PERFORMANCE 10 group of Cabinet officials last July.

After underscoring the peso's rise and stock marker's rebound as a vote of approval for her fiscal reform strategy, the President noted the surge in Philippine bonds that registered the highest yield among IOUs in 2006.

A high yield for Philippine bonds meant lower debt payments for the country, she said.

She said the government saved P20 billion on debt payments last year which she planned to use for social services to enable the masses to share the henefits of the country's economic gains.

The President's obvious pleasure with the economic indicators and her economic management team should douse talks of a revamp in key economic agencies.

Teves said that as far as he knew the President has no plans about making any change in her economic team and that she has never raised the issue with them.

"It would be helpful if the team is kept intact but this is the President's prerogative," Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. Teves said.

Big catch at North Harbor: 'Blasted' fish

By Leila B. Salaverria

OPERATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD seized on Monday night some 4,550 kilos of illegally caught fish from Palawan at the Manila North Harbor.

PCG spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyme said 130 boxes of dynamited fish worth half a million pesos were confiscated from the M/V Asuncion IV, a cargo-passenger vessel that arrived from Palawan.

The use of dynamite in fishing is banned because it destroys the coral reefs that host marine life.

Coyme said that nobody had come forward to claim ownership of the fish shipment. He added the owner could have abandoned the cargo after learning of its

seizure by a team from the PCG's Manila station. The seized items were inspected immediately by a represemarive from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. BFAR fish examiner Arnold Gil informed the PCG that the fish appeared to have been caught using dynamite.

According to Coyme, one would be able to tell if a fish was killed by dynamite if they cut it open and check if its bones are mangled and its innards ruptured. Dynamited fish, except those that were near the blast, usually show no external damages, he added

Hawaii gov to kick off centennial

A UNITED STATES GOVERNment delegation led by the governor of Hawaii was scheduled to arrive in Manila last night to take part in the Philippines' celebration of the centennial of Filipino migration to the US state.

Gov. Linda Lingle along with four state senators and representatives will be here until Jan. 11 to conduct goodwill visits mainly to the Ilocos region, origin of the first 15 Filipino sugar plantation workers to arrive on Ola's Island in December 1906.

"The celebration is expected to open new opportunities for tourism, trade and investments in the Philippines and highlights the contribution of Filipinos to US society," said Poreign Secretary Alberto Romulo **Volt Contreras** in a statement.

Come and see urge bishops

By Philip C. Tubeza

HOUSE LEADERS YESTERDAY WELCOMED the proposal of a Catholic prelate for the creation of a Bishops-Congressmen's Forum, with one of them saying that the bishops might even learn a thing or two from their congressmen, who supposedly did not know the difference between "right and wrong."

House Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman said the proposal of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla to create the forum to facilitate a free exchange of ideas in crafting important laws might even become a learning experience for the country's influential Catholic bishops.

The formation of a Bishops-Congressmen's Porum is very much welcome but I am not agreeable to its creation on a condescending basis," said Lagman, who had clashed with the Catholic Church over a controversial population management bill.

"As long as they don't pontificate and impose their concepts on what is right and wrong, it's OK. This could help in dismanding a rigid religious orthodoxy that is very conservative (on the bishops' part)," he added.

Lagman said that the forum would be an opportunity for the bishops to learn about views different from their own and to find common ground with congressmen in passing legislation that is good for the country.

"It's better if they come over and we have discussions because they might see the light and come to respect other people's views. But they should not insist on what they think is right from wrong, as if we do not know that," he said.

In coming up with his proposal, Capalla had said that lawmakers needed a lot of help "in the discernment of what is right and wrong."

"We cannot presume members of Congress cannot discern right from wrong," said Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico. "We cannot presume that the people voted clowns to Congress."

"Maybe, Archbishop Capalla should name names, so that the people may know who to vote for in the next elections," he added.

BISHOP'S REPORT

the light, solons 'Jueteng' on holiday binge in Bicol

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS ENJOYing the Christmas and New Year holidays, jueteng operators were having their own kind of revelry in their lucrative Bicol strongholds, according to anti-jueteng crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Operations of the multibillion-peso underground lottery resumed in the region during the Yuletide season, belying the Philippine National Police position that jueteng was under courrol, Cruz claimed. "We wonder what the administration

has to say and will do about this information. To consider it garbage would not be wise," he said.

Laban sa Jueteng, said jueteng, or the illegal numbers game, went full blast during but was well organized and deeply en-

the holidays, particularly in all four districts of Camarines Sur and parts of Albay.

He said the game's resurgence in the region was crucial as Bicol is considered the most profitable area for jueteng because of the huge amount of money that jueteng operations there generate.

To prove his claim that jueteng was back in the region, Cruz rattled off the winning numbers in the third district of Camarines Sur the other day.

Citing reports from former justeng bet collectors, Cruz said the winning combinations were 14/23 in the morning, 12/16 in the afternoon, and 27/29 in the evening.

He said the daily triple schedule indi-Cruz, who heads the Krusadang Bayan cated that jueteng in the province was not a mere "guerrilla-type" operation

trenched in the communities.

Guerrilla-type operations refer to a style of jueteng wherein bets are collected from specific areas while draws are conducted elsewhere. The scheme is meant to elude police who have a standing order to eliminate jueteng.

Cruz said the Bicol operations should not have escaped the police monitoring, noting that the PNP had its entire organization to run after justeng operators.

He noted that his group, a network of 62 chapters nationwide, did not have "even a peso in intelligence funds" but has been able to identify where jueteng thrives and who are behind its operations.

He said the game disappeared for a few days in Bicol recently, but only to pave the way for the implementation of the Small Town Lottery (STL), a form of

STL is being aggressively promoted by anti-jueteng czar, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, but Cruz describes it as being essentially jueteng with a "different collar."

He said that like jueteng, STL was also a number combination game that is likely to thrive from bets coming mainly from the poor.

Cruz said it has so far failed to attract prospective franchise holders who fear that they would only lose money from

With nearly half of the earnings going to "official beneficiaries," like mayors and governors, he said no one in his

right mind would want to run an STL. "They'll just go back to jueteng," said

Rebs kill Bicol town cop chief

By Bobby Q. Labalan

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY - NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY rebels killed late Monday night a town police chief and two others in an ambush in Mamog town while the three were en route to check the reported presence of communist rebels.

The Sorsogon Provincial Police Office identified the fatalities as Senior Insp. Eduardo Amande, Matnog chief of police, and Pfc. Alex Correz and Cafgu member Roger de Leon, both detailed at the Matriog police as part of the augmentation force.

SPPO director Senior Supt. Arnold Revilla said Amande and 13 other government troopers left the police station at about 11 p.m. for Barangay Bolo after they received reports about the presence of armed men in the area.

They were traveling in a convoy when several rebels, hiding near a school building, opened fire, killing the three instantly.

Revilia said some of the police and soldiers

managed to fire back and were able to repulse the attackers who were forced to withdraw. He said a pursuit operation was underway to track down the rebels.

It was unclear if the NPA rebels suffered any fatalities but bloodstains found on the route of their retreat indicates they also had casualties, military spokesman Lt. Col. Serafin Raymundo said.

Col. Emesso Pascual, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said he had already dispatrhed additional forces to pursue the rebels.

The rebels, who have been waging a Marxist rebellion since the late 1960s, are active in Matnog, an idyllic town known for its dive spots. The military has stepped up counterinsurgency operations in Sorsogon in recent months.

Matnog was also the site of an encounter between NPA members and police personnel last Dec. 11 wherein an alleged member of the rebel group was killed and another one was captured. With report from AFP AP



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2 months	3.1250%	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%
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BINONDO

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MAKATI

MJ says gov't execs 'lacking political will'

By Volt Contreras

HE MAY NOT BE THE IDEAL poster boy for Philippine sovereignty, but he's in there pitching.

Fresh from doing time in a US prison, former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday said Philippine sovereignty was "being compromised by politics."

He said this was why the four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman still managed to elude detention in a local jail two months after the alleged rape.

Jimenez, an ex-adviser of ousted President Joseph Estrada, criticized Filipino officials for "lacking political will and love for fellow Filipinos."

He said not enough "pressure" was being applied on the US Embassy to turn over the servicemen.

"How come there's no leadership speaking out for this case to be given internationally accepted justice?" he said in Filipino. Oddly, however, Jimenez

spoke rather well of the nation which imprisoned him.

He called the United States "a pillar of justice" where, he said, the general citizenry would probably agree that the four Americans should be jailed here for "a heinous crime."

The controversial businessman whom Estrada once called "corporate genius" made his views known in a hastily called press briefing at a restaurant in the Makati Shangri-La hotel.

Upstairs in the same hotel, Jimenez was also holding a "business meeting," according to a media handler.

Jimenez served a two-year prison term in the United States for tax evasion and making illegal campaign contributions to former US President Bill Clinton. He returned to Manila two weeks ago.

"I, who was then a sitting member of [the Philippine] Congress, waived my immunity and surrendered to the US for peace to return to this country [on the issue of my extradition]," he said in Filipino.

Judge is no stranger to controversy

From page Al

the issue of the Philippine government's "actual, physical custody" of the Americans was putting the provisions of the 1999 RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement to a test. (See related story on Page A1.)

For almost five years now, the 60-year-old Dilag has presided over Branch 73, a special court designated to handle family-related cases.

He has handled quite a number of local rape cases, but not a single criminal suit against active US servicemen.

Two weeks ago, the judge convicted a man who had raped and subsequently impregnated his own daughter.

'I find it unusual that there's a large number of rape cases here," said Dilag, a 1973 law graduate of the University of the East in Manila.

Controversy

Olongapo reporters described Dilag as

By his own account, the man is no stranger to controversial cases in his more than 25 years of private practice after passing the bar in 1974.

Dilag worked with Dean Antonio Coronel, the late law heavyweight, as head of the litigation team in the latter's law office.

Because of his successful defense, strongman Ferdinand Marcos' widow Imelda was able to travel to Switzerland in an effort to obtain deposits of \$356 million of alleged illgotten wealth in at least five bank accounts.

Asked if he was pro-Marcos, he let out a loud laugh and replied:

Dilag managed to secure an acquittal for the first set of accused in the "Vizconde massacre" case in

Suspected of being members of a gang of cat burglars, the accused 🐉 turned out to be fall guys, he said. Dilag also worked for the convic-

tion of a Chinese-Filipino couple who threw a baby out a window. In the case of Maricris Sioson, a Plliping contract worker who died in

was no foul play in her death. Dilag said a Filipino promotions American Marines on case "as an ordinary rape case." agency had hired him to defend the rape charges, insists

Japanese man accused of killing on local custody of Sioson. The man was acquitted af- the accused. POPHOTO [being] extra careful about this."

OLONGAPO City Japan in 1991, he proved that there Judge Renato Dilag, who will try the four

45%

ter Dilag proved that Sioson had died of hepatitis.

Odd jobs

A native of Zambales, Dilag said he did odd jobs to support himself through college and law school.

His court now handles an average of 40 cases a month, or six cases every Tuesday and Priday.

Because the rape case against the US soldiers had landed in his court, "all other cases [here] will have to wait," he said, adding:

"I'm sure that the other cases" will suffer."

But Dilag said he would treat the

Nevertheless, "I know the rest of the world is watching," he said. "I'm

Judge to demand custody ...

Olongapo prosecutor's office served subpoenas on the original six respondents for the preliminary investigation.

As to what will happen afterward, "we can't speculate," the official told the Inquirer. "That's something you will have to ask the US Embassy."

The four Marines have been "detailed" with the Joint US Military Assistance Group in the

US Embassy compound since their Indictment.

National interest

In Manila, Justice Secretary Gonzalez said Malacañang would choose national interest over its relations with the United States, but only after all diplomatic means had been exhausted.

"There is no other way but to discuss this through the diplomatic process. Otherwise, what will you do? Declare war?" a wide-eyed Gonzalez said in an ambush interview at the Palace.

Gonzalez admitted that the rape case had forced the government to grapple with the dilemma of meeting the public sentiment of getting custody of the Americans while maintaining smooth ties with Washington.

But when the issue comes to a head, he said, "I will choose the interest of the Philippines. We have to see to it that national interest and national dignity are protected." He insisted, however, that "it must first be done

through diplomacy because you cannot abrogate [the VFA] without six months' advance nodes."

The case has ignited calls for the government to revoke or amend the treaty.

But Gonzalez said: "There is a principle in international law which says that when you have a treaty, you must comply with it. But when the treary has undergone certain processes that [make compliance] untenable for a party, that party can always withdraw from the treaty."

As to the option to review the VFA, Gonzalez said it would be "the call" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But until the treaty is revoked or the Supreme Court pronounces it unconstitutional, the government has to adhere to its provisions, Gonzalez said.

Motions for review

Dilag said the filing of separate motions by the lawyers of Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and their driver, Timoteo Soriano Jr., would not stop him from seeking custody.

He said he had set the hearing of the motions on Friday.

The motions were filed in an effort to seek petitions for review of the Dec. 27 resolution before the Department of Justice, according to Carpentier's lawyer Francisco Rodrigo.

The resolution was issued by Olongapo Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni and Assistant Prosecutor Raymond Viray at the end of the preliminary investigation.

The custody issue cropped up on Nov. 3 when inquest investigators failed to take custody of the Americans.

US Embassy representatives took custody before the soldiers could board their ship, the USS Essex, for Okinawa, Japan.

The soldiers, who had participated in a two-week military exercise in Luzon, were on a rest-and-recreation break at the time of the alleged rape.

Case raffle

Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the VFA (VFACom), witnessed the raffle of the case to Dilag's court.

At a press briefing later with Dilag, Paredes confirmed that it was the mandate of the VFA-Com "to see to it that the case will run its course without undue delay."

But Inquires sources at the DOJ in Olongapo said there was a legal procedural error in the raffle.

According to a source, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, Dilag should not have mken part in the raffle because he is a special family count judge. (See related story on Page A1.)

The source said the Family Courts Act of 1997 of the Revised Rules of Court in the Philippines identified only 11 cases over which the family courts should have exclusive original jurisdiction.

The 11 do not include rape cases that are not incestuous in character, or those with family members as victims and/or suspects.

Another source, a lawyer, attested that Dilag had never taken part in past raffles since his assignment in 2001 to the Regional Trial Court Branch 73, "a court of special jurisdiction designated by the Supreme Court to handle only family cases."

"While the Revised Rules of Court are silent

on prohibition, Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 104-96 of Oct. 21, 1996, explicitly states that executive judges of the [RTCs] shall exclude designated special courts from the raffle of other cases, criminal and civil, whenever in their [executive judge's] judgment the case load of these courts shall prevent them from conducting a daily trial of the special cases," the lawyer said.

But when asked if he was barred from handling the rape case by virtue of his being a special family court judge, Dilag said: "No."

The lawyers of the Americans and of Soriano are determined to stop the arrest of their clients.

Yesterday, Smith's lawyer Benjamin Formoso filed a motion for judicial determination of probable cause.

Rodrigo and John Coluso, lawyers for Carpentier and for Silkwood and Duplantis, respectively, filed motions to defer the proceedings.

Jose Raulito Paras, lawyer for Soriano, filed three motions to quash the information of charges, judicial determination of probable cause and deferment of the issuance of warrant of arrest.

Paras said Soriano was "never accused of the commission of any offense in the complaint dated Nov. 3, 2005, and was neither the unidentified John Doe being referred to in the same complaint."

"There being no complaint against him, no government agency or officer has the authority to summon and require him to submit a counteraffidavit to a non-existent charge, much less unilaterally include him as a respondent in the preliminary investigation," Paras said.

Restrain them

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, an administration lawmaker, said Malacañang should restrain officials from issuing statements contradicting the Philippine stand that it should have custody of the four US Marines.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, named Gonzalez, Paredes and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis as making "reckless and improper statements."

He said these officials should "shut up and refrain from issuing any pronouncement that could be mistaken as 'lawyering for the Americans' and furthermore, one that may just derail the government's task in taking custody of

the accused." Cuenco suggested that Malacafiang appoint Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye or Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs, as the government spokesperson on the case.

Amend VFA

On the other hand, Senate President Franklin Drilon proposed that the government consider amending the VFA in view of the US silence on the Philippines' "pending request" for custody of the soldiers. That request is dated Nov. 16.

"I believe that this is an opportunity for the DFA and the Office of the President to take a. good look at the [treaty] in order to fine-tune and amend [it] given the situation we are in today," he said at a briefing.

Asked what provision should be amended, Drilon said: "The question of the automatic custody of the American authorities, even if the offense has nothing to do with the [soldiers') official duties."

Sen. Richard Gordon said the United States should turn over the four accused to the jurisdiction of the Philippines if it valued its longstanding relations with the latter.

He said Washington's refusal to yield jurisdiction was a sign of its "very limited respect" for Philippine laws. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Volt Contreras in Manila; Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Corrections

YESTERDAY's story on Page A16—"Year of the Dog off to flery start"-sald that "Only two days into the New Year, dubbed as the Year of the Pire Dog in the Chinese calendar..." The Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar starts on Jan. 29, not on Jan. 1.

Readers may send their requests for correc-tion of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph. Complaints about lack of fauriess or objec-tivity may be sent to Larna Kalasy Tirol, read-ers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvo-

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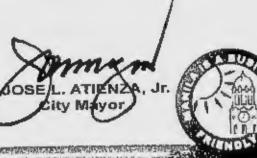
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DOJ files estafa raps vs Ilusorio lawyer over P67-M attorney's fees

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday ordered the filing of estafa charges against a lawyer of the late. Potenciano Ilusorio, a erony of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, after the lawyer allegedly duped two of his parmers of P67.59 million in attorney's fees.

The DOJ order against Luis K. Lokin Jr. came barely a month after the Supreme Court ordered the lawyer suspended for three months for allegedly double-crossing Ilusorio in the corporate battle for control of millions of shares in Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Phileomsat).

A junior law partner, Salvador C. Hizon, was charged along with Lokin.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, in a resolution denying the separate motions for reconsideration filed by Loldn and Hizon, said "there is probable cause to warrant the filing of an information for estafa [for] the deliberate refusal of respondents to give complainants their share [of] attorney's fees of P33,793,916.68 each, which is a dear breach of relation of trust and confidence."

The case stemmed from an agreement between Aerocom Investors & Managers Inc. and the law firm of Raval, Suplico and Lokin, which Aerocom hired in February 1994 to recover the firm's sequestered shares, including accrued cash dividends, in several companies.

In their joint affidavit-complaint, Demaree J.B. Raval and Rolex T. Suplico, Lokin's senior partners, said Aerocom committed to pay the law firm attorney's fees equivalent to 40 percent of any amount they might recover. Suplico is also the congressman of the fifth district of Iloilo. Armand N. Nocum

Japanese firm buying into PLDT

THE GOOD NEWS seems to be pouring in early in 2006 for President Macapagal-Arroyo who revealed vesterday the plan of Japan's biggest mobile service provider, NTT DoCoMo, to pump \$300 million into Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

(PLDT). In a news program aired from Malacañang, the President said: "I want to announce what PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan told me - that NTT Do-CoMo will put in \$300 million into PLDT"

The announcement preempted PLDT's disclosure of the investment to the Philippine Stock Exchange. Disclosure is necessary to prevent the possibility of insider trading in PLDT shares.

The President noted that NTT's investment came on the heels of a P3-billion cash infusion by the Indonesian conglomerate, Lippo Group, into its local banking unit, Export

Industry Bank. "We are seeing a lot of investments coming into the country every day and we hope that this will continue throughout the year," Ms Arroyo said, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



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MOTORS

PAF graft, unrest bared

From page Ai

of PAF Personnel Office in 2004

a service and the salari case of the salari and a committee than

Daquil, wearing the blue undform of the PAF, seemed nervous at first and admitted to reporters that it was his first time to face the me-

"I want to air my frustrations. I'm sick and tired of the malpractice. I am not accusing the CGPAF of corruption. I just want him to explain where the money (P30 million) went. I have no idea where they used it," the 54-year-old Daguil said at a press conference.

Department of Budget regulations require that "personnel services funds cannot be diverted to any object class," he said.

Daquil explained that the savings came from the salaries of soldiers who either had gone AWOL (absent without official leave), resigned or taken early retire-

Daquil said Col. Alexander Flores of PAF logistics brought the papers to his office "and had me sign the concurrence (for the re-

"When Colonel Flores approached me and said CG needed

with savings, they asked me if dera receive the allowance, how they could use the amount. I said that if the purpose was good and if the purpose was for the people, then I was OK with it. He (Flores) said it was for the people so I concurred," Daquil said.

PMA Class of 1976

A member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1976, Daquil said that after the Oakwood mutiny in 2003, he thought that unauthorized allowances for star officers would be abolished.

He revealed that deputy wing commanders like himself received only an additional allowance of P8,500 a month. "It's illegal. I'm receiving a P8,500 additional allowance, which I kept in a bank. I cannot touch it and if the CGPAF will require me to return it by tomorrow I can.

"I hope all these concerned officers will be brave enough to admit it because telling the truth is the only way that we can implement changes in the Armed Forces."

Not for liquidation

Asked if Reyes could also be receiving the same big allowance, money and I was the only one Daquil said: "If wing comman-

much more the CGPAE"

He said he did not know what the additional allowance was for. "It's not for liquidation. It's not in the budget appropriation. It's not in the payslip. CGPAF authorized it and it came from the PAF comptroller. I signed a receipt but it was only in a journal," Daquil said.

The average foot soldier fighting in the frontlines receives a combat allowance of P240 a

Coup

Daquil also said that he was approached thrice by so-called "rebels" who invited him to join a coup, the last time in September. But he said that while he had grievances, he still wanted a peaceful avenue to air his grievances.

"Yes, I was approached by some rebel groups and I ignored them. In fact, when I was approached I immediately told the CGPAF that I was being recruited by the rebels. He said Just let them be and ignore them.' That's it."

He said talking to the media was a peaceful means to effect change. "If I join a coup, I might get

killed. There are those who are disgruntled. They just don't want and breaking the chain of com-

others who will come out. This is the most opportune time considering our political situation. There must be change in the system, not exactly the leadership,"

All accounted for

The PAF spokesperson told reporters that the P30 million in savings went to the DBM. "The amount is all accounted for and there are records."

Asked what the amount was used for Padilla said he would have to consult PAF records for the answer.

On the "illegal" allowances, Padilla said there was no "irregularity."

"It's part of the officers' MOE (maintenance and operating expenses). That goes to the maintenance of their offices like buying office paper and supplies. Sometimes they (senior officers) travel. As commanders, they go places and meet people," he said.

Padilla warned that the Air Force command would take action against Daquil for making his statements. "For having given those statements to the media

to come out. I hope there will be mand, he (Daquil) will be charged accordingly."

Relieved for no reason

Daquil said he was relieved on Dec. 10 "for no reason." He is now on floating status.

"I talked to the CG and he said it (Daquil's relief) was for my own good. He said the environment is bad," he said.

Padilla said Daquil's statements were just sour grapes. "He was given the position as deputy of the 2nd Tactical Operations Wing based in Mactan. But that was not his choice. He wanted to become commander."

Daquil also said the "bata-bata" (favoritism) system in the PAF was still very much alive. "There are officers who jump above more senior officers. To say that the Board of Senior Officers has a say in the appointments is false. The CGPAF is dictating who will be positioned. These were the same complaints of the Oakwood rebels."

On the chain of command, Daquil said "you know there are advantages and disadvantages to the chain of command. In the military, when you say chain of command you just follow the orders and complain later.

"The CGPAF can always say Why are you asking me this?' Do I have the heart to ask him that?"

He has not heard of any case that has been resolved by the so-called "grievance mechanism" in the Armed Forces, according to

He said he had no intention of making general. "I don't want to be a general because I will be powerful and I will be corrupt."

In a statement, the PAF said Daquil's allegation of favoritism in AFP promotions and designations was "unfounded as the command strictly adheres to AFP regulations on the promotion system and all designations pass through a board of senior officers where personal merit and performance are the primary criteria.

Daquil is the latest in a line of military officers who brought complaints about the military before journalists, then were charged and detained.

The 117,000-strong military has been struggling with restive: ness and has a recent history of uprisings. It played key roles in the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

With a report from AP

What's cooking? Ramos, Drilon, Sotto meet in secret

that they were forming an alliance.

A source told the Inquirer that resolving the lingering political crisis, which continues to bedevil the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was the focus of the discussion.

"Look, there's no denying that the three have shadows (of political groups). There's something under their skin," said the source, stressing that Drilon represented Corazon President Aquino, the Hyatt 10 and the Liberal Party, while Ramos was identified with Ms Arroyo, or at least the ruling Lakas-CMD party.

Aquino, Drilon, the Hyatt 10-a group of Cabinet officials antries," Drilon said when asked by

who stepped down on July 8, 2005-called on Ms Arroyo to resign that same day.

While she has survived the worst political crisis of her political life, Ms Arroyo has yet to hurdle the tough task of putting to rest questions of her legitimacy, spawned by allegations that she stole the presidency in 2004.

Drilon yesterday admitted that he met with Ramos and Sotto, a friend of detained President Joseph Estrada's and of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s, somewhere private on Jan. 2, but declined to divulge the agenda of the meeting.

"I confirm that former Senator Sotto, former President Fidel Ramos and I exchanged New Year pleas-

a reporter about his meeting with Senate President to talk about relaying the Inquirer's request for Ramos and Sotto.

Drilon was being eyed as "acting President" in a transition government by a multisectoral group that would take over the Arroyo administration. Asked if Ramos made an enticing offer, he said: "We ex-

changed toasts over red wine." He stopped short of divulging the topic of the meeting.

"It is better to ask President Ramos. I'm not free to divulge it and I have no permission from President Ramos to divulge what er Malacañang officials were we talked about," Drilon said.

"Out of respect for President Ramos, I do not want to make any comment in fairness to him. He is a senior statesman of our country and it is not appropriate for the

what we talked about." Malacañang dismissed the

meeting as just an "innocuous New Year's call." "We are not worried at all.

Ramos is Lakas chair emeritus," said presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio. "A high level of mutual respect, understanding and support exists between him and the President."

"We're in touch with him," said Claudio, even though he and othcaught flatfooted by the meeting. Ramos refused to talk to the

media about the meeting. "Masakit daw ang ngipin (He has a toothache)," Ed Malay,

an interview to the former Presi-

Household staff said it was simply Ramos' way of saying "no comment."

The former President's declaration of support for Ms Arroyo in July was regarded as a key factor that saved her administration from collapse amid mounting calls for her resignation.

Ramos had proposed that the Constitution be amended to pave the way for a shift to a parliamentary system.

But two weeks ago, Ramos rejected as a "monumental blunder" a proposal by the Malacañang-constituted Consultative Ramos' spokesperson, said after Commission to scrap elections in

2007. He threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo unless she declared by New Year's Day that she was against the move.

Sotto also confirmed the meeting in Makati City but did not elaborate.

"Frank (Drilon) admitted it, so I guess I can't deny it any longer,"

Asked about the agenda of the meeting, or what they had achieved, Sotto said: "I'm not at liberty to say at this point. I'm not authorized to say what we talked about, or whether we agreed on something."

He said what was clear was that "we agreed not to talk about it in public just yet." With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Crime rate down-DILG; victims don't complain-poll

chief of Ouezon City's anti-carnapping (Ancar) unit, taking his belongings, including his gun.

The theft came as the Department of Interior and Local Government reported declines in cases of car theft, bank heist, highway robbery, hijacking, street crime and illegal gambling from January to November of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004.

The declines could be attributed to the unwillingness of Fil-

people in the country failed to report crimes committed against them.

Of the 180 people who said they had been victimized in recent months, 82 percent said they did not report the crime to authorities, Pulse Asia said.

It found that 15 percent had been victims of crime, and that 54 percent of those said they had been victims of a burglary, by far

the most widespread crime. The survey did not say why so

ipinos to report crimes against many victims did not bother to re- driver's license, he told police. port the crimes.

had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Supt. Ceasar Tannagan, 38, told the police he was having lunch with a friend between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. when unidenrified men broke one of his car's

He had parked his Toyota Corolla in front of 156 Maginhawa St. in Quezon Ciry, he said.

The thieves took Tannagan's personal firearm, a .45-cal. pistol, his ATM and credit cards and

District (QCPD) until he was relieved late last year for an unspecified reason.

His term had been marked by an increase in car thefts in the city, especially of cars being taken from their owners at gunpoint, or carjackings."

Tannagan, however, remains a member of the city's task force against car theft headed by Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., according to QCPD director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr.

showed the number of car thefts volved in carjacking. nationwide decreased 34 percent, with only 945 cases reported in January-November last year compared with 1,440 during the same period in 2004.

For that period in 2005, 454 stolen vehicles were recovered, five car theft syndicates were neutralized, 136 people were arrested and 99 car theft cases were filed in court.

It was also the same year that members of the Traffic Manage-

A report on crime incidence ment Group killed in the Ortigas Tannagan used to head the An- compiled by the DILG and the Na- area in Pasig City three scions of A survey said eight of every 10 The survey of 1,200 people car unit of the Quezon City Police tional Anti-Crime Task Force well-to-do families allegedly in-

"These figures point to one thing: The police, with the strong backing of the community, are slowly winning the war against criminality, toward making our society and streets peaceful and crime-free," Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Reyes had been assigned by President Macapagal-Arroyo to lead the National Anti-Crime Task Force (Nactaf). With a report from AFP

Pork barrel: Pigging out

From page A1

were the result of a meeting that month between a member of the House of Representatives and three Inquires editors. The meeting at a nightspot in Quezon City was largely a social occasion among old friends wanting to catch up on one another's lives.

When the conversation turned to the subject of the items in the national budget that pertained to the pet projects of lawmakers, that is, the pork barrel, the congressman was quite happy to disclose the money trail.

Taking hold of a paper napkin, the lawmaker, who will continue to remain unnamed, illustrated exactly how much, in the form of "standard" amounts, the members of Congress and other officials got from government projects funded with the pork barrel.

He said the kickbacks were "SOP"-standard operating legislators practice-among and ranged from a low of 19 percent to a high of 52 percent of the cost of each project, which could be anything from dredging, rip rapping, asphalting, concreting and construction of school buildings.

The other major sources of kickbacks that he identified were public funds intended for

medicines and textbooks. A few days later, the tale of the money trail became the banner story of the Inquinen issue of Aug.

13, accompanied by an illustra- tional source of pork tion of a roasted pig.

The great revolt The drawing showed which choice portions of the pig went to congressman, a senator, the head of the pre-qualification bid-

the resident local auditor. The publication of the list would spark what could be called "the great pork barrel revolt" of 1996 in Congress as legislators realized that not all congressmen and senators were created equal-some got a bigger slice of

ding and awards committee, and

the pork than others. The pork barrel is a "hallowed" tradition in the history of the legislature in the country, dating back to the establishment of Congress itself. It is an accepted way by which legislators can be given access to public funds that they can distribute as largesse to their constituents.

The customary pork was known as the Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) in the budget. Each senator was allocated P18 million and each congressman P12.5 million.

A pig by any other name...

During the administration of President Fidel Ramos, the pork barrel system was expanded with the Congressional Initiative Allocation (CIA), under which funds were inserted in the budgets of government departments for projects in which legislators would have a say, giving them an addi-

The INQUIRER series was sparked by a July 22, 1996 story in which the chair of the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption, Eufemio Domingo, denounced what he called the "criminal waste of hard-earned money by Congress through pork barrel appropriations amounting to P20 billion over the past eight years."

The issue would have died down as such stories are wont to. The issue of pork barrel irregularities were nothing new, after all.

But then the unnamed congressman decided to spill the beans and furnish the INQUIRER with the list of the kickback beneficiaries.

Worse than hell's fury

And the resulting ruckus in Congress stirred some members of the public into going to the Inquin-ER with their own stories of irregularities in the implementation of the pork barrel-funded projects.

Hell hath no fury than a legislator denied his pork barrel. Unhappy about the share that they got, congressmen began turning on each other.

Several took to the House floor or went on radio to denounce the unfair allocations. Loyal administration congressmen felt insulted that their P21 million in CIA paled in comparison with the allocations for the most vociferous critics of President Ramos and House

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. The list showed that Minority

Leader Ronaldo Zamora and Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, for example, got P103 million and P38.1 million, respectively.

The then Deputy Speaker Hernando Perez said he could not accept that the late Rep. Rolando Andaya, who headed the appropriations committee, got P3.6 bil-

Pork even for relatives

Perez, who was allocated P76 million, said the fact that others got P100 million "makes me look like an idiot."

Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez noted that some of the contractors for projects funded with pork barrel were relatives of congressmen or officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Others revealed that 23 construction firms were owned by House members or their close relatives.

The House was in crisis. De Venecia suspended the session one afternoon to prevent a free-

The Speaker then called a caucus where he promised to resolve the matter by giving the rebellious representatives more pork, averting a threat to declare all House positions vacant.

Who was Deep Throat?

Speculation on the source of the Inquirer kickbacks list was so intense that on Aug. 12, two congressmen from Samar fought on the House floor, one of them accusing the other of being the source of the inquiren story.

manded an investigation to find out who leaked the list to the IN-OUIRER.

Congressmen suspected Sen. Edgardo Angara of leaking the list. Sen. Ernesto Maceda delivered a privilege speech blaming the "ignorant media" for the "demolition job versus the entire Congress,"

The Inquiren decided to come out with a story on the source of the list. It turned out to be a Department of Budget and Management official who was so exasperated with the floods in his area that he gave the list to the INQUIR-ER's congressman source in the hope that it would result in a more equitable sharing of the CIA and free up funds for flood mitigation and control.

PI-Blibel suit

With the public pressure, the DBM would confirm that the list was authentic.

In mid-August, De Venecia declared that the House would file a P1-billion libel suit against the In-

Gonzalez upped the ante by announcing that the House would have the Inquiren offices 'padlocked" on the grounds that its series on the pork barrel was seditious.

The threats boomeranged on Congress. Church people, local government organizations, school officials, children and media groups flooded the Inquiren with calls, fax messages and mail,

Various congressmen de- expressing outrage against the pork barrel and promising sup-

port for the paper.

House retreats Children sent their savings to help the Inquirer defray the cost of fighting a libel suit, and people sent leads for stories, documents and pictures of cases of pork bar-

rel misuse. Rather than be cowed, the IN-QUIRER went on to publish the entire CIA list, starting on Aug. 15. Amid the public outrage, the

House dropped its plan to sue the INOUTRER. Did the kickbacks stop because of the Inquirer series? Most likely,

it did not. But the series has led to reforms in the pork barrel system.

No more basketball courts

In 2001, the DBM started posting on its website the list of pork barrel projects that congressmen and senators had identified for funding. It also issued a memorandum circular disallowing projects like basketball courts and waiting sheds.

During the 12th Congress in 2001, the pork barrel was renamed the Priority Development Assistance Fund, which was limited to funding "hard projects" like roads, bridges, hospitals and day care centers, and "soft projects" like support for the Department of Social Welfare and Development and procurement of seeds.

Some legislators completely gave up their pork barrel.

Police colonel denies hand in Gingoyon murder

By Luige A. del Puerto

INVOKING GOD AND AT TIMES RAISING his voice to emphasize a point, a senior police officer whose name had cropped up in the investigation into the killing of Judge Henrick Gingoyon yesterday swore he had nothing to do with the murder.

While admitting he had had past disputes with Gingoyon, Senior Supt. Manuel Barcena said his battles with the judge were confined to the courtroom.

The battles were never personal, he said, although Barcena admitted his legal troubles affected his career and caused him to be investigated for dis-

honesty by his own organization.

Barcena said he could never think of having the judge killed, especially now that the Supreme Court had decided in his favor and he had just been recently promoted to senior superintendent.

"My previous disputes with Judge Gingoyon were purely legal in nature and entirely related to the performance of my duties as a police officer," Barce-

The officer's tiffs with the slain judge stemmed from a drug case in 1998, when he was head of the National Capital Region Police Office-Drug Enforcement Unit. His team arrested two men national police investigated Barcena for

cars from them.

The police filed a case against the suspects. Judge Gingoyon tried the case. The suspects were acquitted.

Egged on by Barcena, the prosecutor's office appealed the case.

The Supreme Court later ruled that Gingoyon had erred in "giving due course to the prosecution's notice of ap-

The prosecution cannot appeal as it would place the accused in double jeopardy," the SC said.

As a result of the case's dismissal, the

in a buy-bust operation and seized two dishonesty. He was placed on floating status for several months. The dishon-

esty case was later dismissed, he said. Barcena and the judge had had other

In March 12, 2002, Gingoyon's house was shot at by assailants in a marcon car. The judge blamed Barcena, and in his affidavit stated that Barcena was "the only person whom I could say had a grudge against me."

Yesterday, Barcena maintained that the supposed affidavit was unsigned, and added that the National Bureau of Investigation had already cleared him of involvement in the case.

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suspects held but no brains yet

From page Al

Lomibao, police said they had also arrested a certain Danny and a certain Hadji, who supposedly handed over P150,000 to Cruer as payment for killing Gingoyon, who was gunned down near his home in Bacoor, Cavite, at around noon last Saturday.

Police declined to present the suspects to the media pending the filing of charges against them.

But Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, maintained that Ignacio and Arciaga "were just invited for questioning.

Of the seven, he said only Cruer, Bacior, Rabino and Samonte "had direct participation in the killing."

Some of the suspects acted as lookouts, he said.

Lomibao said investigators were not considering the case as solved.

"As of now, this is the strongest lead that we are pursuing although we are not discounting other leads ... We cannot say that this case is solved as of yet," Lomibao said.

Tip from informants

Verzosa said the arrests were prompted by information that the killing was carried out by members of a crime group based in Cavite.

He said the group was involved in kidnap-for-ransom, robbery and gun-for-hire activities.

Acting on the tip, six teams fanned out in a series of operations, which started on Monday night and ended early Tuesday.

Verzosa said that after witnesses named Cruer as the gunman, police' "they had arrested the right persons. swooped down on the house of the suspect in Greenvalley Subdivision in

around 8 p.m.

Cruer allegedly identified his cohorts in two other subdivisions in Molino. The last to be arrested was Baclor, from his house also in Greenvalley.

Where murder was plotted

Verzosa said it was in Baclor's house where the group allegedly met and planned the ambush-slaying of

Lomibao said police had yet to ascertain the motive for the killing of

We cannot say what the motive was unless we talk with the men who handed Cruer the money. It is only they who can (tell us who wanted Gingoyon killed)," he said.

Asked if Senior Supt. Manuel Barcena, who had been involved in legal disputes with the judge, was already off the hook, Lomibao said: "We are not discounting other angles in the case. I have asked (the investigators) to invite (Barcena)."

Relatives of the suspects assailed the police for the supposed illegal arrests of their loved ones.

"They said they would only invite my brother. Now they are accusing him of killing. My brother knows nothing about it. He is not a bad man," cried Rosemarie Baclor. A hysterical Jessie Rabino, 42, said

her husband was framed by their neighbors who were police informants. She said the neighbors were just

envious of their business. But Verzosa said police were firm that

"We are 90 percent sure that these men were involved in the killing be-

them," he said. "We will just file the case and they will have their chance to prove us wrong in court."

When asked about the allegations that the suspects were fall guys, Verzusa replied, "It is a normal reaction of the relatives of criminals."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said one of the suspects "has already confessed his participation."

Wider conspiracy

He said authorities were looking at a "wider conspiracy" involving a police officer whom he did not name.

"Things are pointing to an incident in 2002 where the judge had figured in an altercation with a police official which was also followed by a strafing of the house of the judge," Gonzalez said.

"According to the investigators, the suspects were contracted for P150,000," NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said. President Macapagal-Arroyo con-

grarulated Gonzalez and the authorities for "ensuring no coverup or foot dragging in the case." Gonzalez said the arrest of the sus-

pects did not solve the crime "because you have to find out who is the mas-Gonzalez said one of those in custody, who had acted as a lookout, had

been identified "as the one who cou-

tacted and contracted the others for the mission to kill the judge." "He is the one who knows the mastermind. He knows where the money came from," Gonzalez said.

Mantaring theorized that the mastermind could be an affluent per-With a report from Margaux Ortis, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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Barangay Molino and arrested him at cause we have witnesses who saw Top 'Pook' awards go to Bohol, Or. Negros

Bohol Gov. Erico B. Aumentado told the IN-QUIRER that these programs succeeded because of the support of the people.

In the coastal management program, for instance, Aumentado said fishermen who used to hunt dolphins and whales and were engaged in illegal fishing were called to meetings where they were informed that they needed to keep the marine resources alive to ensure their income in the future.

"Now, they are the guardians of the marine resources. From hunters, they have become the protectors," Aumentado said.

Coastal management ties in with Bohol's massive eco-tourism campaign, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in tourist arrivals from 95,420 in 2001 to over 313,585 in 2004.

"We are now working on building more rooms and improving our tourism facilities, such as restaurants and transportation," he said.

No longer the poorest

According to Aumentado, Bohol is no longer one of the 20 poorest provinces in the Philippines because of these programs. It is now ranked 41st out of 79 provinces, and the people plan to further improve Bohol's ranking this year.

He attributed Bohol's increasing prosperity to the collaboration between the local government, the military and the people.

"We also have to thank the One above who continues to help Bohol," Aumentado said, "It belos that we have always been a prayerful, conservative people."

Growing vegetables

Oriental Negros Gov. George P Arnaiz, on the other hand, was particularly proud of the Gulayan at Palaisdaan Alay sa Kabataan (Vegetable Farm and Fish Pond) program, chosen as one of the top 10 outstanding local government programs for 2005.

The program was conceived in 2002 out of the need to improve nutrition among grade school children.

What better way to improve their health, he said, than to eat vegetables the kids raised

The children were given garden tools, fertilizers and vegetable seeds to be planted in unused lots in their schools. The local government also spent P2 million in the first year of the program training over 700 teachers all over the province in gardening.

Fighting mainutrition

In three years, the area devoted to vegetable production increased by 139.31 hectares, con-

vegetable area. Malnutrition decreased to 23 percent in 2005, down from 39 percent in 2002 and 27 percent in 2003.

"It is a very simple and cheap program that's simply going back to the basics," Arnaiz said in an interview, "We used to garden when we were young, but we forgot about it."

The program not only revived

tributing 9.7 percent to the total a dying activity, but also increased the income of schools since they could sell excess vegetables raised in their gardens.

The spillover effect has been very good because the children also plant vegetables in their homes," he said. "And when you visit schools all over the province, you will see vegetables they are proud to have raised themselves thanks to the program."

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia restores gas flow to Europe

MOSCOW-RUSSIA WAS ATTEMPTING TO RE- for European countries further store normal supplies of natural gas to European nations on Tuesday, but its politically-charged gas price row with Ukraine showed no signs of abating.

the chilling effects Monday of Kiev's gas price row with Moscow which has turned off its natural Medvedev was quoted as saying gas supply to Ukraine, through by Russian news agencies. which Russian gas also transits on its way to Europe.

the latter of th

With key importers such as Germany and France reporting a drop in supplies, Russian energy giant Gazprom promised to increase exports westward to make up the

"We have taken all necessary "stealing" the natural gas bound

Several European nations felt measures to supply Europe with gas according to contracts," Gazprom's deputy chair Alexander

> By tomorrow evening full supply to Europe in accordance with these contracts will be restored,"

Gazprom said it would raise supplies in its export pipeline by 95 million cubic meters a day in order to make up for Ukraine

downstream.

Late Monday, Austria and Hungary separately reported that gas pressure had returned to normal levels on pipelines running from

Austrian Economic Minister Martin Bartenstein expressed satisfaction that Russian Gazprom had kept it promise to restore the

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met Monday with ambassadors of the European Union, Japan and the United States to discuss the crisis and said Kiev would call for international experts and arbitration in the price dispute.

EU energy officials will hold a

special meeting on Wednesday to discuss supplies.

Europe imports a quarter of its natural gas from Russia, with 90 percent of those supplies delivered via Ukraine.

The crisis has raised questions among Western officials and Moscow analysts about Europe's dependence on Russian imports, as well as about Russia's policies as it takes the helm of the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations in

Hungary had earlier noted a 40 percent drop in Russian gas, Poland almost as much and Austria 30 percent. Slovakia, Romania, Croatia also reported reduc-

In western Europe, Italy saw er-era gas tariffs to Ukraine. Russian supplies drop 24 percent and France-which gets 21 percent of its gas from Moscow a fall of 25-30 percent.

Germany, Europe's biggest gas importer, also noted disruptions, although Economy Minister Michael Glos said there was no immediate cause for concern for the 17 million German households that use gas heating.

Britain which has it own, albeit dwindling, gas supplies, does not rely heavily on Russian gas im-

row erupted when Gazprom, which controls a third of global natural gas reserves, demanded an immediate rise in Sovi-

It wants to raise the price to Ukraine from \$50 to \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, bringing it closer into line with market prices.

Supplies were cut Sunday after Kiev rejected the price hike.

Ukrainian Energy Minister Ivan Płachkov denied Russian allegations that Ukraine was siphoning off gas to ease its energy needs but warned it would be forced to do so if temperatures plunged below

As its 48 million people braced for shortages, Ukraine accused Moscow of seeking to destabilize its economy, which depends on Russia for about a third of its natural gas import needs.

Saddam prefers to die by firing squad

WASHINGTON—JAILED FORMER IRAQI the lawyer, adding that dictator Saddam Hussein told two of his it was "the right way" lawyers that if he is sentenced to death for to execute a military dwar crimes, he would rather die by firing squad than by hanging, The Washington Times said Tuesday.

"I don't value this life that much. Every human the deaths of hundreds being has his time to go," lawyer Issam Ghazzawi said Saddam told him when they met in a base-iment of a Baghdad courthouse on Dec. 7 during a break in his trial.

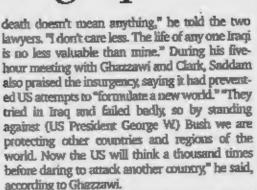
Ghazzawi said he and former US attorney general Ramsey Clark raised the possibility that the former dictator might be sentenced to death if aconvicted of war crimes.

"I am the commander in chief... I prefer it to be by firing squad," Saddam answered, according to me dead," Saddam said. "Threatening me with

The ousted Iraqi ruler, who is blamed for of thousands of people during his 25-year regime but is currently facing charges of ordering the 1982 massacre of 140 people, said he SADDAM was hinocent of the

charges but pessimistic about his future.

"Of course I'm not guilty, but I know they want



Saddam also predicted that US occupation of Iraq would not last much longer.

"The traci people are patriotic; they cannot accept foreign rule. Any aggression will be resisted



RESCUE workers try find people under the collapsed roof of a skating rink in Bad Reichenhall, southern Germany, Tuesday, Jan. 3.

German skating rink collapses, 15 feared dead

-Up to 15 people, including children, were killed or feared dead after the roof of a skating rink in southern Germany collapsed in heavy snow, police and officials said on Tuesday.

Schools in the region were on holiday and many children and their parents were inside the building in the Bavarian town of Bad Reichenhall, by the Austrian border, when the roof, weighed down by

masses of snow, fell in on Monday. Rescuers worked through the night, lifting away half of the collapsed structure. By early morning they had identified the bodies of nine people-a woman, two teenagers and six children aged between nine and 12.

Hubertus Andrae, police direcfor of the nearby town of Traunstein, told a news conference that the rink. Some were being taken six additional people were known around by police in small groups to to be buried in the wreckage and view the hall.

BAD REICHENHALL, GERMANY that another three were believed to

be missing.

Relatives faced an agonizing wait as rescuers with sniffer dogs and heavy cranes worked in bitter cold through the night to clear masses of snow and debris but there were few signs of life coming from under the piles of rubble.

Police denied reports of knocking coming from under the col-

lapsed roof. "It's unfortunately deathly quiet in the hall," a spokesperson said.

Officials said around 50 people were thought to have been in the sports complex when the roof collapsed. Around 30 were injured and several others escaped from

the collapse unscathed. Relatives of the victims and missing were receiving counseling in a makeshift tent set up in front of

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Flash floods kill 57 in Indonesia

PANTI, Indonesia-Rescuers struggled to reach stranded villagers and recovered dozens more corpses on Tuesday as the death toll from flash flooding in central Indonesia reached 57, officials said. A group of crying survivors carried a dead baby wrapped in a blanket to a temporary clinic, and police hauled injured survivors on stretchers from destroyed villages in Jember district on the east of Java island, witnesses said. The local government scrambled to provide food, shelter and medicine to more than 5,400 people made homeless by the flooding, which was triggered by heavy weekand rains that sent mud, water and logs crashing into villages, destroying hundreds of buildings early Monday. Survivors were staying in schools, mosques and government buildings.

Israel's Likud ministers to quit gov't

TEL AVIV-Cabinet minksters from Israel's rightist Likud party will resign from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet this Sunday, party leader Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday. Netanyahu had pushed for the resignations of the four ministers so that the party could focus on campaigning for a March 28 election. Likud has been lagging in pulls since Sharon quit to form a new centrist party, Kadima. The departure of the ministers is likely to have little impact for Sharon.

13 West Virginia miners trapped

CHARLESTON, West Virginia-Rescuers mounted a massive effort on Monday to reach 13 miners trapped just under two miles inside a West Virginia coal mine after an early morning explosion. The men became trapped Inside the Sego mine in central West Virginia, about 160 km from Charleston, after an unexplained blast about 6:30 a.m. (1130 GMT) and rescue efforts have been hampered by high gas concentrations outside the mine. There had been no communication with the miners since. After ventilation fans dissipated the unidentified gas outside the mine, two teams of rescuars began advancing through the shaft to reach the men 114 meters



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UN Hariri probe wants to quiz Syrian president

probing the murder of former Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri demanded Monday to interview Syrian president Bashar al-Assad after a former deputy implicated his regime in the assassination.

An inquiry spokesperson said UN investigators were also looking to talk to Foreign Minister Faruq Shara as well as former vice president Abdel Halim Khaddam, who made the explosive allegations after fleeing into exile in Paris.

"We asked to interview Assad, Shara and others. We are awaiting an answer (from the Syrian authorities)," said inquiry spokesperson. Nasrat Hassan.

She added that the commission wanted to meet Khaddam "as soon as possible" after his comments in an interview with Al-Arabiya television in which he accused Assad of threatening Hariri just months before his murder.

This is the immediate effect of Khaddam's bombshell as he was a pillar of the Syrian regime," said Lebanese political scientist Joseph Bahout. 'Mr. Assad will find it difficult to refuse receiving the commis-ments.

BEIRUT-THE UN INQUIRY stort." The request for an interview presents Assad with yet another delicate choice—whether to risk losing face by being interrogated by UN investigators or take a stand and see his country slip into international

Khaddam quoted Assad as telling Hariri during a meeting in Damascus: "I will destroy anyone who tries to hinder our decisions." "We must await the results of the investigation, but no Syrian security service could take such a decision unilaterally." added Khaddam, long the architect of Syria's military and political dommation of neighboring Lebanon.

According to the An-Nahar daily, Chaddam's declarations were "identical to the commission's conclusions." Simon Karam, a former Lebanese ambassador to the United States, told AFP that Khaddam's comments had given the inquiry a push forward at a time when its pace was stumbling due to Syria's "manipulations." Hariri's son and political heir Saad hailed Khaddam's comments as "historic testimony" Khaddam was slung out of the ruling Baath party for making the com-

Samsung develops fastest downloading cellphone

SEOUL-SOUTH KOREA'S SAMsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it had developed what it claims to

be the world's fastest multimedia-downloading mobile handset.

The phone, equipped with an MSM6280 chip from the Qualcomm of the United States, enables users to download music or other multimedia content at a speed of 3.6 megabits per second, or approximately 10 MP3 music files a minute.

The mobile using "high-speed downlink packer cialization and deployment of this ccess (HSDPA) technology," technology worldwide," said Dr. was unveiled at the Consumer Sanjay K. Jha, president of QUAL-Electronics Show in Las Vegas, COMM CDMA Technologies. AFP

Samsung is proud to showcase HSDPA as the future of mobile

broadband," said Kitae Lee, president of Samsung's Telecommunications Network Busi-The mobile, equipped with Qualcomms Mobile Station Modern, is a product of strategic collaboration between Samsung and

the US company. The new handset marks "an exceptionally important milestone in driving the commer-

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Palestinians launch poll campaign

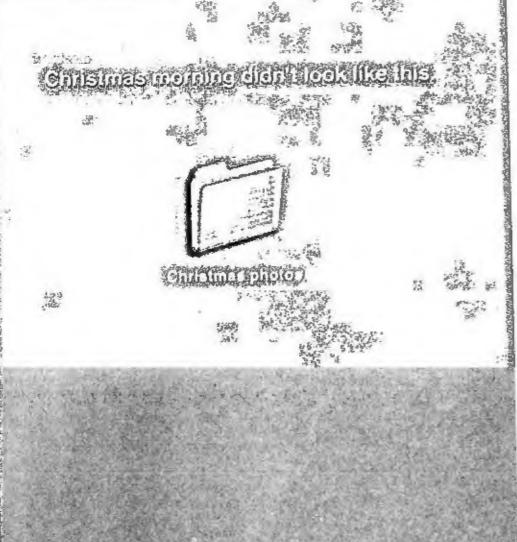
RAMALLAH, WEST Bank-Campaigning begins Tuesday for only the second Palestinian parliamentary election, with factions staging launch rallies despite question major marks hanging over whether the vote will

take place. The Fatah movement, which has governed the Palestinian Authority over the past decade, will try to put behind it all internal divisions at the launch of their campaign by the tomb of the late patriarch Yass-

er Arafat in Ramallah. While Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas is on a tour of the Gulf states, deputy prime minister and Farah campaign manager Nabil Shaath is expected to address supporters and many of the party's candidates running for office on Jan. 25, before holding a 1 p.m. {1100 GMT) press confer-

While Fatah will kick off its campaign in the West Bank, its chief rivals from Hamas will stage their own launch in their Gaza stronghold.

Ismail Haniya, who tops the lalamists' list of candidates, is expected to address supporters outside the home of the movement's late founder.



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Different tunes

HE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THE TALK-FIRSTthink-later nature of our country's nonexistent foreign policy is the manner in which the justice and foreign affairs secretaries have contradicted each other. If our country had a genuine foreign policy, focused on the nation's permanent interests, we would not, so early in the year, have Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez publicly fretting about offending the United

EDITORIAL States, or Secretary Alberto Romulo publicly expressing the hope that Uncle Sam will, whatever happens, keep tenderly holding our hand. The two statements are simply two sides of the

same coin, both showing a government incapable of conducting mature diplomacy.

The secretaries of justice and foreign affairs were, of course, referring to the question of whether the American servicemen accused of raping a Filipina in Subic Freeport should be detained by Filipinos or Americans. If we had a government with a foreign policy, the justice secretary would focus on matters affecting the law while the foreign secretary would assert the country's treaty rights. Instead we have the hyper-opinionated Gonzalez playing amateur diplomat and the holder of the diplomatic portfolio mobilizing the foreign service in aid of the country's position on the matter. Instead, we have a trio of Cabinet officials-Gonzalez, Romulo and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye-singing different

The Department of Foreign Affairs informed the Unitéd States that our government would be seeking custody over the accused American servicemen. This was on Nov. 16 last year. The Americans have yet to formally respond to the official notice. However, things can't just go on hold until the US government deigns to respond; as it is, the lead state prosecutor is preparing to file a motion in court seeking the transfer and detention in Olongapo of the four servicemen accused of rape. This is on the sensible principle that if Timoteo Soriano Jr., the Filipino driver involved in the case, was ordered arrested, so should the Americans.

Gonzalez has pointed out certain provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement to show that the Philippines cannot simply order the arrest of the accused Americans. That is why the government filed a notice of intent with the US government. This is, again, on the sensible principle that foreign soldiers accused of a crime in another country deserve the protection of their government-so that they will be assured of a fair trial and accorded every opportunity to mount a credible de-

However, there is a fine line between Gonzalez's pointing out the provisions of existing agreements, and his giving the impression that he is more concerned with helping Americans rather than ensuring that justice prevails for all concerned. Senate President Franklin Drilon pointed this out when he criticized Gonzalez's view that prior to an arrest, negotiations would have to be undertaken with the Americans. Saying that essentially telegraphs to the American side the soft nature of the government's will to assert itself. As Lord Palmerston's famous axiom puts it, nations have "no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests." Friendship is not the point; justice is.

Gonzalez's other legal observations are, when examined closely, not particularly controversial. His acerbic style and tendency to make smart-alecky comments in public, however, serve to inflame passions. This is well and good for a politician, but not for a justice secretary, and certainly it does not serve the interest of justice. This is because his statements only serve to complicate the issues, anger people and make the job of the DFA more difficult than it should be. No wonder some people are convinced Gonzalez is out to sabotage the case.

While we do not believe Gonzalez would sacrifice a case merely to pander to America, the law of unintended consequences is already kicking in, tainting the credibility of the government's effort. Neither justice nor diplomacy can be effective if handled in the manner the town drunk handles life; by sitting in front of the corner sari-sari store, commenting on anything and everything, heedless of common sense, decency or digni-



Big fight over motor vehicle insurance business

ONE OF THE BIG FIGHTS SHAPING UP IN THE new year is that between the Insurance Commission and private insurance companies, on the one hand, and the Government Service Insurance System, on the other. Because of the exposé made by Sen. Juan Ponce Barile on the anomalies in the vehicle insurance system-specifically, the Compulsory Third Party · Neal H. Cruz Liability (CIPL) insurance for private vehicles-there are moves to change the system. The Insurance Commission and the GSIS have submitted different proposals. And that's the reason for the fight.

Tens of thousands of vehicle owners who have had accidents already know what Enrile exposed. Many insurance companies do not pay claims for indemnity by accident victims. In most cases, vehicle owners have no recourse but to pay from their own pockets because they have been sold fake insurance policies.

Moreover, many insurance firms did not pay taxes on the premiums paid. It is estimated that the government loses about P268 million yearly from unpaid taxes on premiums. Since the CI-PL system has been in force for the last 25 years, revenue losses could run to billions of pesos.

To stop the anomaly, the GSIS has offered to be the issuer of CTPL coverage to private vehicles. Right now, it already does that for govern-

That would be a monopoly, said the Insurance Commission and the private insurance companies. Instead the commission proposes a "clearing house" for the private insurance companies. To assure the payment of taxes, it pro-. poses the payment of premiums through banks.

The GSIS says there would be no monopoly as it would reinsure with reputable private companies but the GSIS would take primary responsibility for the payment of claims. It assures that claims would be paid in 5 to 10 days. This is much better than a clearing house.

As for the payment of premiums through banks, that would add another step to the registration of vehicles that would inconvenience owners who would have to go to a bank to pay.

As I SEE IT

They already have to go to a gas emission testing center, then to the office of an insurance company. The red tape is so long that owners are forced to pay fixers at the Land Transporta-

Moreover, 40 percent or almost half of the premiums will go to the "clearing house."

Who are these unknown but powerful personalities in this 'clearing house' that they are favored to receive the huge 40 percent of the gross revenues from the CTPL?" the GSIS asks. This "clearing house," by the way, has not been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the personalities pushing it are totally unknown. "For all we know," the GSIS adds, "they are the same personalities now operating the bogus CTPL system. Besides, none of these assures that the problems would be solved, as both the bank certificates and CTPLs could still be faked."

As a backgrounder to readers, this house" could be just the same dog with a different collar, the same "unified pooling system" created by Presidential Decree 1455 in 1978. It was composed of all insurance companies licensed to do casualty insurance and managed by representatives of the insurance industry. The CTPL coverage of all private vehicles was assigned to this pool while the coverage for government vehicles was assigned to the GSIS.

While the GSIS coverage was successful, that of the pool was not because of fraudulent practices by the member insurance companies in the pool as well as by the management group that supervised the pool. As a result, PD 1455 was replaced by PD 1814, which abol-

ished the pool and limited the compulsory insurance coverage to third party bodily injury.

But the transfer of the issuance of CTPL policies to individual private insurance companies has resulted in the proliferation of fake policies and Certificates of Cover (COC) and also promoted unauthorized franchising. So in 2002, the LTO agreed to a program sponsored by the private sector providing for authentication of CTPL Certificates of Cover.

That program failed, too. Fake CTPL policies continued to circulate and government continued losing revenue due on the premiums. The reason is that the watchers in the CTPL game were also the players. Fly-by-night insurance firms sold blank COCs to some LTO registrars who resold them to vehicle owners at double or triple the price they paid for them. This is the present system that the two proposals seek

The GSIS proposal looks like the better one. First, it would incorporate the payment of premiums for CIPL policies in the registration costs. The vehicle owner doesn't have to go to the office of an insurance company. Payment for the GSIS CTPL policy would be automatically incorporated in the LTO registration receipt through a separate item. This payment would also be encoded in LTO and GSIS computers. Claimants for CTPL indemnity need not submit proof of coverage. All the GSIS would have to do is punch its computer system which is linked with the LTO's to verify the CTPL coverage.

Second, it would ensure that the government receives the correct taxes from the premiums.

Third, it would protect the public from fake

CTPL policies.

Fourth, it would ensure prompt payment of CTPL indemnity to motor vehicle accident vic-

Fifth, it would eliminate fixers and middlemen in the transaction, thus minimize corrup-

And last, it would provide additional dividends to the national government from the proceeds of the husiness.

Paths

ARCHBISHOP ANGEL LAGDAMEO, PRESIdent of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the THERE'S Philippines, and Archbishop Oscar Cruz had two seemingly contradictory pieces of advice THE RUB

Conrado

de Quiros

to give the nation on its new year. For Lagdameo, change should start from within. "Our dream of a transforming and transformed nation must wake up to the realities that we are challenged to change. (There is need) to break with the old selfish ways of thinking and behaving which have been the causes of conflicts. (The task of) national transformation must be a shared one, something every concerned Filipino must initiate

starting with himself." For Cruz, the only way the new year can be new is "if there were new public leaders with a new vision and in command of new integrity and respectability. Otherwise, the year is but another date, merely prolonging old realities. (The most important question) is the legitimacy and competence of no less than the holder of the highest office of the country. Unless there is not only a legal but a real closure of this national and fundamental issue, looking at the new year as a truly new year with new real-

ities is falsity." Both in fact have a point.

Over the years I've gotten to appreciate more and more the need for internal, moral, spiritual changes as against external, political, and physical ones. I've gotten to a point where I truly believe, along with Lagdameo, that the second will not happen, or will not produce any lasting effects even when they do, without the first. We do not need to look very far to see the truth of it. There are the two Edsas to argue for it. Both were huge events, toppling down governments that seemed destined to last forever, promising the hope of a better world. Yet 20 years later (to the day next month), we are no better than when we started. We are worse,

We are a country that has lived out the story about the ogre that never dies. That story, for those who have never heard it, tells of an ogre that terrorizes a community and that somehow



cannot be killed. Many brave men set out to destroy it but they never come back. One day, a strapping youth, bold and carefree, tries his luck. He gets to the ogre's castle, and surprisingly finds it the easiest thing in the world to defeat the ogre. But, alas, the story does not end happily. The youth doesn't come back either. That is because he becomes the ogre, That is the secret of the ogre that never dies.

And that is the secret of the country that never lives, which is us. The people who slay the ogres in this country become the ogres themselves, the people who topple the tyrants in this country become the tyrants themselves. Wealth and power are seductive, wealth and power are transformative, and greed does the rest. Thirty or so years ago, as an activist, I believed that all it took was to change the world and we would change ourselves. The change would come more or less automatically, so all we needed to do was direct our energies to waging a revolution and we would revolutionize ourselves. Alas, that wasn't so at all. Over the decades, I've seen some of the people whose idealism seemed beyond question corrupted in the extreme. Over the decades, I've seen some of the people who seemed willing to give up life for truth, justice and decency, cling to lying, pillage and mayhem as though it were breath itself.

These days, when someone says we need to change ourselves, too, we need to topple the things that tyrannize our hearts and minds, too, I take him seriously. I have seen the horrific effects of a revolution that takes history rather than morality as its guiding light—the "killing fields" most of all—to still believe ex-

ternal transformations alone will do the trick. I myself put it this way in a tribute to Bishop Julio Labayen, which the good bishop has since added to his literary arsenal: The heart of the revolution is the revolution of the heart. I wasn't just making a play on words.

None of this is to say, of course, that we should be reduced to immobility, that we should ignore the corruption and rottenness that stare us in the face and hie off to the mountains to commune with the soul. Though I'm not knocking retreats, secular or religious, they help recharge the batteries of the soul. None of it may make us agree, as GMA and the two Gonzalezes have expressly put it, that we are to blame for their existence and that we deserve the torments they inflict on us.

Cruz is right there, too. Life is a choice: We can acquiesce to injustice or we can fight it; we can embrace wrongdoing or we can push it away. How we deal with the world shapes our soul, too. You keep acquiescing to injustice in the name of finding an inner peace, you won't have a soul to find an inner peace in. You don't have to look far for proof of that. Look what's happening to the country, with its increasing capacity to accept lying cheating and stealing. We now have people saying, "So GMA cheated in the elections, so what?" I am not exaggerating when I say that it will not be long when we start saying, "So he raped the girl, so what? At least he didn't kill her." Or "So he killed a guy, so what? At least he didn't massacre his family." You don't fight iniquity every time it stares you In the face, you lose a chunk of your soul. That is true of individuals, that is true of nations.

In fact, there is no contradiction between what Lagdameo and Cruz say, at least in the best sense of what they say, I'm all for living a deeply interior life, one that examines or interrogates the self at every turn along with the world. But I'm all as well for doing something about the scourge that has fallen upon the land. The second without the first just makes another failed Edsa. The first without the secand just makes you a sucker for punishment,

OPINION

A year of living more dangerously

POR NEARLY SIX MONTHS LAST YEAR, THE most debilitating political scandal ever to hit any Philippine administration in the post-Marcos years the controversial tapes showing alleged rigging of the 2004 election results-froze the country in a state of partial political paralysis. The political impasse over the street-driven call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo persisted up until the end of 2005, with no one side winning that epic struggle.

That the Arroyo administration survived the crisis of 2005 and that the challenge from the streets petered out augur ill for the new year. Continuing impasse is a recipe for immobility. There is no basis to the claim that the administration has emerged stronger from the challenges of 2005. Neither can it be said that the forces seeking a premature end to the Arroyo presidency have enhanced their capacity to dismount her.

Our pernicious legacy from 2005 is the continulty of the stalemate. This can only fuel the move for a decisive showdown, which is why 2006 promises to be a year of living more dangerously than last year. In 2005, the tapes defined the issue of national debate. That usue was defined by the notoriety of an election commission official. The controversy over the taped conversations was a national shame, and it contaminated the political vocabulary of the nation, to the exclusion of any other issue, as though nothing else mattered to the Filipinos, with the tape controversy becoming the litmus test of whether they are capable of maintaining a democracy while at the same time proving that their fractious politicai system can also deliver good governance, as well as economic results.

No issue has exercised the various sectors of Philippine society, including the Church, business and industry, the institutions of state (among them the military and police and the political parties) and civil society, more violently since the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983.

The tapes became the Armageddon of Philippine

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



politics, the magnet of conflict, in which every significant sector of society was drawn into conflict, except the poor and common people, whose voices have been muted by the noisy and garrulous middle class which tied to recruit them for street marches to shield the activists from harm.

The common people and the poor have become apathetic to the indecisive conflict. It seems to be a plausible explanation that they are not getting involved in the activism of the streets and the empty debate over the tupes (that feeds the frenzy of the noisy and fearned classes) because they have realized that they have nothing to gain from becoming engaged in the political games of the political class.

rectionary calls from political agitators and they are not at the same time serving as shock troops of the government to defend it in the siege. I bemayhem in the streets, the poor and the common care less whose heads would roll in the chaps and whether the present government survives and who would replace it—whether it would be a revolutionary junta or a cabal of generals.

I hazard to say that the uncommitted crowd and cursing any side. They would watch with giee the

People Power 1 demonstrates that in a crunch, the poor and the common people can be as opportunistic in assessing their chances as the middle classes. They have learned from Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 that regime change has neither changed nor improved their lot. The disgruptled poor should be the natural constituency for recruitment by the Left, but the poor have given up the Left as their saviors partly because its revolutionary agenda has not enabled it to grab political power.

Like most of us, the poor and the common peo-ple love winners—whether in electoral contests or armed struggle-and they tend to flock to the banner of the winners. Since the Left has been the loser in its revolution and at Edsa 1, largely because of its flawed decision to boycott People Power 1, it has become an ineffective organizational force in post-Edsa 1, including at Edsa 2 and the more recent railies in Makati and the Batasan demanding the resignation of President Arroyo.

The continuing stalemate in 2006 does not promise to produce winners behind which the poor and the middle classes can rally.

The poor and the common people cannot be mobilized to march in mass movements because they have learned that Edsa 1 brought Corazon Aguino to power and Edsa 2 brought Arroyo to power, and the change did not generate social programs that at least provided relief from poverty. They have realized that the cabal that came to power with Aquino and Arroyo belonged to the elite and divided the spoils and opportunities brought about by change among themselves.

Both Aquino and Arroyo betrayed their expectations for change. So, as we move into the new year, I am not at all euphoric or optimistic about 2006 being a year of change, new dynamism or political renewal initiated by the sitting administration or about a revitalization of the opposi-

No issues are likely to emerge to catch the imagination of the public and to rescue us from the sterue issues that defined the debate of 2005.

their palaces legislators behind "controversial"

The ecclesiastical "invitations" are the primary

reason bills on such topics as divorce, population

management and family planning, non-discrimina-

tion based on sexual orientation, even taxation of

religious institutions, which start off with hundreds

of sponsors, often end up being virtually aban-

doned, "orphaned" of their authors even before

would only strengthen the hand of an already

I'm afraid the "Bishops-Congressmen's Porum"

they make their way out of committee-level talks.

powerful and heavy-handed institution.

bills that displease the hierarchy?

All will be well

BARTHQUAKES, FLOODS, POREST FIRES, FAMINE, VENAL politicians, seam scientists, suicide bombers, wars, bird flu, AIDS... And all will be well?

Yes, my reply is all will be well, maybe with an exciamation point.

And then there was one

I got the idea for my column title after listening to a BBC Interview with Michael Meegan, an Irish medical scientist

who has worked in Africa for 27 years. He faced a rather cynical interviewer, Stephen Sacker, who kept asking how he could continue to work amid all the problems on that continent. At one



point, Sucker referred to an article Meegan had written about how a young African had died in his arms. His voice marked by despair and a tinge of anger, Sacker exclaimed, "Where is your God?"

Meegan calmly replied, "All will be well." Then he went on to enumerate the many gains that have been made in Africa.

That was when I realized that the world often fails to see this progress, sometimes ironically because every other dogooder wants to save Africa and keeps launching relief campaigns and concerts focusing on the problems rather than on what's being done to overcome those problems.

Meegan pointed out how 16 SubSaharan African countries now offer universal education, and how girls in particular are benefiting. And while there are tens of thousands of AIDS orphans on the continent, the children are not in orphanages—they're being cared for by communities and

answer was simple: When he first arrived in Africa, there were 21 African dictators. Now, he says, "there's Mugabe,"

From 21 to 1, that's not bad at all. Sure corruption's mill

As I listened to Meegan, I thought of how the Kenyan,

I thought of Liberia electing a woman president, the first

many African countries.

spired by their commitment.

Like those doctors in rural communities, I am aware of the tremendous odds we face. Which is why I want to assure Tito Eiliot Anderson, one of my readers in Ozamiz, that I will continue with a regular fare of angst. The year of the dog should allow me to growl a bit more about sleaze, slime and other forms of high-living low-life.

Finding a way

At the same time, I hope to continue sharing the little stories I pick up from little people with big hearts. A few weeks back, Dr. Henny Espanola of the West Visayas State University was telling me about how the economic crisis was being reflected in an increase this year in the number of medical students applying for financial assistance. Somehow, word leaked from the administration about the limited number of

I'm sure some of you are thinking of parents trying to

I've often heard Filtpinos complain that we're doomed

adopted by neighbors. And the dictators we often identify Africa with? Meegan's referring to Zimbabwe's despot of a president.

endemic, but when you have democratic institutions in place, there's a better fighting chance to deal with that corruption and pursuing a development agenda.

shilling emerged in 2005 as the second best performing currency in the world, after the Brazilian real. The Philippine peso, if you're wondering, ranked 5th, but that's not why I think all will be well.

on the continent. Like our own president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is an economist, but she's not a traditional politician. She, speaks her mind, and once was thrown in jail for that. More importantly, in her interviews it's clear she has a good feel of what people need. For a former World Bank and United Nations technocrat, she has modest goals: a hand pump in ev., ery village, for example, and universal education.

Whistling in the dark

Listening to Meegan, I thought about the Philippines, which has problems that are not quite as serious as those of

Maybe I'm whistling in the dark, trying to gain some courage. But I don't want to pretend, either, that all's well al-, ready, as government propagandists do all the time, crowing about the strong peso without giving enough credit to the sweat and tears of overseas workers, whose remittances account for much of the peso's strength, if not the economy being kept affoat

No, no rosy statistics for me. I find comfort and hope in everyday stories of what Pilipinos are doing to overcome adversity. I celebrate when I hear of Justino Arboleda who won a BBC Global Challenge award for using coconut corr and fiber to create anti-erosion "coconets." I am thrilled, as well, with the Galing Pook awards to local government units, with all kinds of schievements from the northern libilo municipality of Concepcion's innovative synergy of environmental conservation efforts with family planning to blcycle-friendly

Then there's the Visayan Forum's Cecilia Flores-Ochando. winning the 2005 Anti-Slavery Award for her organization's work, specifically with domestic workers. She, too, was interviewed on the BBC, sharing some of the most harrowing stories about the abuse of child domestic workers as well as the efforts of her NGO that go a long way halfway houses for, abused workers, income-generating projects for the dis-

We hear too little about these instratives, so I was elated when the Inquirit had a front-page article about the Ateneo de Manula's Leaders for Health Program (LHP) which has Fillpino physicians serving rural impoverished communities. So who says Filipino physicians are either taking nursing so they can migrate, or are only interested in making lots of money in plush urban hospitals? The LHP doctors aren't into ordinary charity programs; the physicians are in there for the long haul, learning to deal with political realities. I've listened to these physicians explaining their situation and am at once overwhelmed by the odds they face as well as in-

scholarships. So what do you think happened?

use connections to get the scholarships. Not quite. Several students and parents did approach the administrators; but to withdraw their scholarship applications. One student said she could probably manage on the remittances. of her father, an overseas worker. In so many words, those who withdrew said they were doing so to give a chance to those in greater need. Meanwhile, they'd find a way to

for failure because of our bahala na mentanty, which is misinterpreted as fatalism. Those students and parents at West Visayas State University remind us that if we do invoke bahala na, it's often only after we've made many attempts to solve a problem. Yes, we sigh, "Bahala na," but we also assure those in need, in crisis: "Gagawa tayo ng paraan" (We'll find a way). That's why I believe that with time, all will be

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This is the reason they don't respond to insurlieve that if ever this confrontation develops into people are not likely to take sides. They could not

the poor and the common people would behave as they had done during previous upheavals and coup attempts. They would line the streets as kibnzers to watch the melee, neither cheering nor

uncertain outcome of the clashes in the streets Evidence on mass mobilization attempts since

'Tita Celing's' legacy practice of bishops nowadays to "summon" to

I JOIN THE REST OF THE NATION IN MOURNing the passage of retired Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, the first woman to be named to the highest court in the land.

But if "Tita Cehng" is remembered today with something close to reverence, it's not only because she paved the way for women in the practice of law and in the judiciary, but more so for the example she set as a lawyer, justice and champion

As the news story in this paper reported, she was called an "ingrate" by no less than a colleague in the Court after she delivered a speech calling for a "return" to the rule of law, an oblique but quite obvious reference to the martial-law

regime of Ferdinand Marcos It may not seem like such a brave thing to do these days, especially after the phrase "the rule of law" has been so basely corrupted, but at the time she spoke out, it was like an oracle of wisdom and courage had finally spoken out. Marcos, after all, wished to veil his repressive regime with the trappings of legality and legitimacy, in which scheme the martial law-era Supreme Court was a key player. For a member of the tribunal, and the only woman at that, to "bell the cat" and finally expose the truth about Marcos' "smiling" martial law was a real breakthrough, one of many individual acts of courage that, cumulatively, drove the Marcoses from Malacañang.

"ITTA CELING" Palma was one of a small group of seniors who often put their younger comrades to shame in the course of the protests and the mounting of the "Parliament of the Streets" for almost a decade before the Edsa uprising.

She was joined in this endeavor by former Senators Lorenzo Tañada and Jose Diokno, and most visibly by Joaquin "Chino" Roces, all of whom volunteered to take their places in the front line of protest marches, challenging the Marcosian riot police to go after the protesters by starting with these elderly and respected icons of freedom.

They were not always successful. Memorable and powerful still is the picture of these older protest leaders being subjected to biasts



from a water cannon, which may not have been fatal but were certainly painful.

This tells us that the hankering for freedom, and the moral courage that impels individuals to stake even their lives for it, know no age limits nor respect one's status in life. Along with students, workers and newly-resurgent professionals and business folk, older folk saw and experienced for themselves the abuses of a repressive regime and decided it was time to speak out and to act to bring an end to it.

Palma's passing recalls the era of protest and righteous anger, but also marks yet another move away from the freshness of the memory The time will come when too few individuals will remember just what living under martial law was like, in much the same way that World War II is now but a dim memory. But while we can still remember, we need to use every occasion, such as a remembrance of Tita Celling, to freshen our indignation and determination anew.

LET me add my newly-resurgent peso's worth of opinion on the proposal of former Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Fernando Capalla to establish a "Bishops-Congressmen's Forum" allegedly to "facilitate a free exchange of ideas in crafting important laws."

This would, on the surface, appear to be an innocuous suggestion since legislators are really expected to consult with as broad a range of constituents as possible while in the process of crafting laws. And Catholic bishops, of course, constitute an important sector of society.

But would such a "forum" be truly a "free exchange of ideas"? Or would it not rather be a collective and institutionalized form of the common

WHAT I would suggest instead is the establishment of a "Bishops-Faithful Forum" in which these ecclesiastical worthies would be obliged to engage in a "free and open" discussion of social issues and concerns with various sectors of society-especially women, and including gays and lesbians and other individuals the in-

stitutional Church deems "deviant." If there's a body that needs to listen more and discern better, it has to be the CBCP, which often "consults" with lay leaders only to dictate what the faithful should believe, and how they should behave.

Do the bishops listen—not just to married couples but also to single, sexually active women and men, including adolescents-on what their lives are like, especially in finding a balance between responding to one's sexual impulses and living up to one's responsibility to one's partner and family?

Do they even want to talk frankly with women and listen to women's feelings of inferiority and discrimination within a Church that proclaims equality and mutual respect?

Have they ever conducted dialogues with members of sexual minorities to better understand the shifting nature of sexuality and idea-

Before they can demand that legislators listen and consult with them, perhaps our bishops can start by first listening and consulting

Hope when there is no hope

THE SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS REPORTED recently that more than 80 percent of Filipinos hope that 2006 will be better for them. This seems a good example of Christian hope of which Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J. once said, "Christian Denis Murphy hope begins when there is no hope."

Such hope appears to be deep in the bones of Filipinos, and luckily so for government and all in authority. In Happyland, Tondo, on Jan. 2, we met thousands of such people, still patient, for-bearing and hopeful for better days, though a fire destroyed the homes of 3,000 families there two

days before New Year's Day. Along the North Harbor road the noise is deafening and the air acrid with the smell of ulingan smoke, but inside Happy Land, which is half on the shore and half on stilts over the waters of Manila Bay, it is quiet. Blackened house posts stand like tombstones in the dark water and the cement houses on shore are now blackened shells for the most part. Still life goes on more or sess normally. People rebuild a sari-sari store and houses. Children harry past in the narrow adeys. The lattle ones take hold of your pants leg to help

them avoid muddy puddies. Not everyone, however, is active. A man of 60 or so sleeps on the path. We asked a group of young men what was wrong with him and they said, "He's just rired, tired out. That's his house there." Nearby the ruins of his barong-barong had been swept into two black plies

Pelisa Obon, 61, sits by the path while her husband Somfacio tries to get a registration document from a barangay official, "I'm all right," she says, "I'm just so tired I'll be all right." She and her husband, who drives a tricycle and makes P100 a day, have lived in Happyland since 1985

She has a sweet sad smile 'ls God ungry with Happyland?" we ask. She thinks and tells us, "No, I don't think so. We al-

To rebuild their houses takes whatever little

money people have saved for their old age and

ways say our prayers. I don't think it has anything at all to do with religion." It is the second fire in four years, she tells us

COMMENTARY

the education of children.

"Are you angry with the government?" we ask again. "No, they gave us rice." it's not clear how much aid was given. Some

say they received rice once, others twice. Some received nothing, "We'll be all right," Pelisa says again. Pictures of politicians come with every kilo of rice that is handed out

We met the area leaders: Ka Freddie, a barangay kagawad, Mang Tony, president of one of the people's organizations; and Ricardo, a younger man, the president of another people's group. I ask them if the government will award the land to them. The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council has promised to make a proclamation if they would get the proper clearances from other agencies. The people have been trying to do this for many months. A proclamation means the residents will have the land for good. They won't have to worry anymore about evictions.

"Will they proclaim it?" we ask. The three leaders think the government will do it. Skeptics may doubt if that will ever happen. The Philippine Ports Authority, for example, has opposed such proclamations around the North Harbor. The leaders are hopeful and will most likely remain hopeful even if they are aware of tisat agency's objections.

"We want to stay here," everyone tells us, if the government tells them to get out, however, they will do what their leaders say, it's no good warning the people that leaders can be bought off and threatened, and mislead them. It would only embarrass them and as.

Not every poor area is as pliant as the Happyland people. We went across the North Harbor road to watch the distribution of aid in a basketball court. It was Sen. Manny Villar's turn to distribute. Big banners announced the fact, Hundreds of people, mostly women, waited in line, A ates.

very noisy, congested throng of humanity line up for an hour and each received a 32" x 80" bonig "How do you feel about the aid you got here?" we ask. "Weil, it would be nicer if there were

some rice." There was something degrading, we thought, about mothers, young and old, being crushed to-

gether for so long for a buning Down a narrow street, the police were distributing rice. People lined up again and appeared one at a time in front of a door where the iron gate was three quarters closed. There was just enough room for one person to stand in the opening, present his ration card and get a kilo of rice. It looked as if they were getting something illegal. There must be bet ter ways to distribute help

After that we walked around the area destroyed by fire, especially the dark polluted waters of the bay, where half the people had lived on stilts and where now the only trace left was the blackened posts

"Why do people have to live like this?" my wife asked, "Why do we allow it?"

We have grown used to millions of our brothers and sisters living over polluted water and in other sub-human conditions, yet there is enough land for all if we use it well. We would demand justice if a parent badly beat his children in Happyland, but we don't mind the daily trauma the children suffer from noise, congestion, violence, hunger and tear of eviction

And yet as we prepared to leave Happyland, a beautiful sunset was taking shape over the Bataan mountains across Manila Bay, Maybe It's better to keep our eyes on the beauty of sunsets and not on problems only. Maybe it's better to be hopeful.

No one should take credit for the calm optimism of the people, if anything, it gives government and everyone else time to act to better the situation. Happyland is, despite the name, not a fit place for children and isn't worthy of its people. They deserve better.

Denus Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associ-



Technicality can't prove guilt decisively

THE POINT RAISED BY COLUMnist Solita Monsod that Hubert Webb was convicted based on technical reasons deserve serious reconsideration by the Supreme Court. (PDi, 12/24/05) The plane tickets and manifests that proved Hubert was in the United States when the crime was committed were rejected by the Court because they were mere photocopies. The testimony of Hubert's relatives in the United States were trashed because, according to the judge, relatives will he to save a kin. Following that asinine logic, a father cannot save his own son even if the father is telling the truth.

The note verbale from the US State Department confirming the presence of Hubert in the United States was rejected by the Court and yet Congress finds the note verbale from the Singapore Foreign Ministry more credible than Virguio Garcillano's passport.

Justice is not served when conviction is based on a technicality. Planted evidence and faise testimony have sent innocent people to prison for crimes they did not commit. The probability of innocence deserves to be given more weight than the probability of guilt when technicality has given way to reasonable doubt. Do the justices fear that if Hubert is declared innocent, it would shatter the credibility of the lone wimess who testified against him which may also lead to the release of the others convicted of the crime and trigger a backlash of public opinion?

A faithful dispenser of justice is one who has the moral courage to challenge the limits of the law when a human life is at stake and will refuse to be tied down by the technical rule of law but abide by the factual reality of circumstances. He is a compassionare judge who conaciously weighs the delicate balance between innocence and guilt and does not succumb to political pressure or fear to antagonize public opinion. Technicality does not prove the guilt of a person in absolute terms. Precisely because of it there is reason to betieve that the probability of innocence exists

Chief Justice Artemio Pangamben says he is for judicial activism, whatever that means. Hubert W is impocent. Please set him free

-CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, cesdlrey@i-manila.com.ph

Coverage of MTRCB suspension order

your lead story last Dec. 18 in your newspaper's Entertainment section titled, "MTRCB suspends cable channel."

We would like to clarify that the suspension order issued by the MTRCB for alleged transmission of objectionable content by the international channel TVE rightly applies to all cable television operators which carry that channel. The Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA) and its members do not have control over the program content of international channels since their signals are directly transmitted to our subscribers as "real-time online satellite feeds."

This is in consonance with an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the MTR-CB earlier this year with the PCTA which says that any suspension of channels shall be applicable to al.

WE WRITE IN REFERENCE TO cable operators, with no operator being singled out. It is the responsibility of each of the channels to guard its own content. A separate MOA was signed by the MTRCB and the Federation of International Cable TV Association of the Philippines (Ficap)

The PCTA is seeking an audience with MTRCB Chair Manssa. Laguardia to discuss and clarify the details of the suspension order in connection with Channel TVE.

Lastly, may we also inform you that Central CATV (SkyCable) and Global-Destiny are members of the PCTA and not Ficap.

Thank you for allowing us to clarify thu matter.

—TONY V. SELDA, president, Philippine Cable Television Association Inc., Unit 504 Talpan Place Condominium, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Is quitting a job now a serious crime?

PRESS RELATIONS AGENTS Amor Meclang and Brad Geiser used the inquirer last Dec. 11 to cast doubts on the reputation of Carlo Antonio C. Cordero with a "nonce to the public" saying that he was no longer connected with them as of Nov. 14, 2005 and urging readers "to report to GMCI any attempts by Mr. Cordero to transact business on the company's be-

Who is Carlo A.C. Cordero and what crime did he commit? Carlo is a fresh graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños with a degree in BA Philosophy (cum laude). An active student leader, he chaired the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council and the University Student Council chose him as one of the 10 most outstanding student readers at UPLB. Carlo loves to write. He is the youngest in the family and our only son.

He had the option to enroll in law school right after graduation, but only 20, he decided to work to finance his studies later

After the notice came out, concerned friends started calling us. One confided that her husband had told her: "May kaso yan. Hin-di ka ilalagay diyan kung walang kaso (He must have a case, otherwise they would not have put out that notice)." Other friends inquired in roundabout ways. And what did the rest of the world who saw the ad think? What message did Geiser Maclang Communications Inc. try to convey?

mom-and-pop venture engaged in him an apology "press relations." He thought it was the perfect job for him

However, it did not take long for him to discover the realities of employment. In less than a month, he was up to his neck with the "management style" of his superiors. Sixty-seven days after he first reported to work, he submitted his letter of resignation. He left without waiting for the 30-day period for his resignation to take effect and never came back.

Is it such an oddity for workers to walk out on bosses whom they find anreasonable and imperious? I did exactly the same thing 35 years ago.

Very seldom do employers put out notices of this sort. It is sparingly used and reserved only for those who stole money because the damage it can inflict is .mmeasurable. It is a penalty that is grossly disproportionate to whatever malfeasance an employee did. And it's worse if he is not guilty of anything.

The ad created the perception that Carlo is about to commit fraud at his employer's expense What was its purpose if not to ruin my son's reputation and close all doors to his reemployment? It was a cheap attempt to cut my son's ladder to his future before he could even get on the first step

The simple truth is that Carlo quit his job. He did not steal any money and any instinuation that he is scheming to do so is without basis. The public notice was not only demeaning but malicious, to say the least.

My son did nothing wrong, ex-Carlo was hired as a writer last cept perhaps to bruise the big egos Sept. 7 by GMCl, a successful of Maclang and Geiser They owe

> -JESS CORDERO JR., sweet pep@yshoo.com

Balangiga bells a reminder of America's colonial ambitions

I AM TIRED OF READING, YEAR gressional sanction. With that war, another war-purportedly to after year, about the refusal of the US government to return the bells of Balangiga (Samar)

The Statue of Liberty in New York and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia symbolize freedom. In fact, the word "America" is generally considered synonymous with freedom. On the other hand, the bells of Balangiga in the hands of the Americans remind us of the US government's imperialistic subjugation of the Filipino people.

The Balangiga incident was part of the Philippine-American War, w war fought by our forefathers to resist America's colonial designs in the Philippines. That war the US government waged without con-

America installed itself as the second colonial master of the Filipinos, immediately after the latter succeeded in freeing themselves from 333 years of Spanish bondage.

It did not matter to the US government, then, that 35 years earlier, Abraham Lincoln emancipated the Negro slaves or that the US Constitution did not contain a provision authorizing the conquest and colonization of other nations and territories. When America imposed its sovereignty over the Finpinos, it in effect overthrew the Malolos government, which was the first republican government to be set up in Asia.

Today, America is engaged in

bring democratic rule to the Iraqi people. This war is essentially no different from the war that the US government waged against the Filipino people in 1899.

And the belis of Balangiga, for as long as they remain in Amencan possession, tell us that the US government has not given up its colonial ambitions.

If the US government insists on keeping the bells, the people of Balangiga can request the national government to seek the assistance of the Vatican. After all, the bells are also the property of the Catholic Church

-VIRGILIO V. BAYBAY, Elawod, Guinobatan, Albay 4508

Helping animals through vegetarian diet

THE TWO bells taken from the church of Balangiga by American soldiers.

WHILE LEGALIZING THE SALE necks and beaten violently in orand consumption of dog meat is a der to increase the flow of matter of debate, there is no denying that the atrocities inflicted upon dogs slaughtered for human of men who eat it. consumption in many parts of Asia exect say dog meat eating is a right," PDI, 11/11/05)

Draft charter an exercise

adrenaline in their bodies, which is believed to increase the virility

are shockingly cruel. ("Benguet await this nightmarish fate on starter kit, visit GoVeg.com. farms and in markets where they endure horrible conditions in Dogs are often fully conscious crowded cages-often so small as they are strung up by their that standing up is impossi-

ble-without food or water for days on end

We all can help animals that are abused and killed for food by choosing a healthy, humane vege-Many dogs raised for food tarian diet. For a free vegetarian

-SONIA G. ASTUDILLO. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific, SoniaA@PETAAsiaPacific.org

about the Report of the Consultative Commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to draft a new constitution. The Senate has already rejected

in futility and a waste of money

the recommendations of the Con-Com. And fromcally, administration senators, like Francisco Pangilinan, Richard Gordon and Joker Arroyo, were among the first to register their opposition. Arroyo said. "It is bad enough that the draft constitution submitted by the ConCom is unoriginal What makes it worse is that it is a copy-

IT WAS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILI- cat, a plagiarism of Marcor 1973 ty. This was all people could say Constitution." Arroyo went on to ask, "With such Marcosian stamps and footprints, how can anyone support the ConCom proposal?"

How about the funds spent by the commission? Although the funds came from the pork barrel of the President, the money could have been channeled to productive purposes, if not to alleviate the sufferings of our less fortunate

-GODOFREDO O, PETEZA SR., J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan, Daet, **Camarines Norte 4600**

Preying on the desperate over the airwaves

TWO PLAINTIVE VOICES KEEP ECHOING in my mind. One is Letty's, an impoverished housewife in Cagayan Province, the other is Miriam's, a melancholy spinster in Quezon City's Project 8. Quite by chance, I heard them over my small transistor radio recently. Manila stations can sometimes be heard in Hong Kong over the AM meter-band late at night or early mornings—and the clearest signals belong to El Shaddaí and the Iglesia ni Crista, which calls itself "Ang boses ng katotohanan" (the voice of truth), both of which engage in endless preaching and

came through the crackie of static from dzME which calls itself "Radyo Uno" ("Ang mas respetado"). The two women were asking a certain "Kuya Danny" for healing during his "Ad-

The cocky-sounding Danny asked Letty if she was alone. She said her three small sons were with her. No husband? He worked as a security guard (from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). What was her problem? Letty was worned about a bukol (lump) in her breast. Cancer kaya ito? (Might this be cancer?) she asked softly. Had she seen a doctor? Her quiet no probably meant she couldn't afford to pay a doctor or there wasn't one in her town. Where was she? By the sea near Fort (insudible) in Cagayan, she said

under a light buib. Letty said she had no electricity. This produced a 'Sus! from Danny and snickers from his sidekick "Mirador." She had candles.

Are you doing it? Opo, she replied. Now smaller? She said she wasn't sure. He put her through the paces again, then asked: How does it feel now? Tentatively she said it

And so it went for some minutes while he and Mirador made ribald remarks about the

Soon Danny had apparently mesmerized

Isabel T. Escoda

Letty into saying she could no longer feel the lump. Sino'ng pasasalamatan mo? (Whom do you thank?), he asked. "Adventure Phe nomenon," she replied. "Station dzME, 1530." Sino pa? (Who else?) Mama Mary, was the answer.

After Letty, Miriam from Project 8 came on air. She was diabetic and always felt sick, despite a herbalist's potions. Danny asked if she was alone. Yes. Married? No. Did she have a boyfriend? Yes, but

A-hal Danny shricked. Have you been making "Ocho-ocho" with a married man? Miriam giggled, so Danny lectured her about the evils of adultery before doing the deepbreath-eyes-shut-glass-of-water-head-rotating routine. Ten minutes later she said she

Callers to the show apparently don't mind being needled. Perhaps they put up with coarse comments because Kuya Danny is a celebrity who performs "cures," so they let him toy with their emotions since he claims it cheers them up. He obviously provides the hope they can't get elsewhere

Another night, one of Danny's callers was a 72-year-old man with a sexual problem. Did he have a wife? Danny asked. Yes, and she was around Danny laughingly asked if she complained because "marker ang lyong pototoy" (your penis is short) The man gave a nervous whinny. Well, let's fix it, said Danny. He told the man to shut his eyes, tug his penis with one hand, sip from a glass of water with the other, take a deep breath and rotate his head.

Eventually he got the man to state not only that the water tasted progressively saltier, but that his member seemed longer. Danny and Mirador's raucous remarks punctuated the routine, after which the grateful caller thanked them, the radio station and Mama

During station breaks, girls warbled the fingles "When you light a Hope, ." then sang of "Fortune International, the largest-selling

luxury cigarette." Then came: "Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health."

By contrast, government-run dzRB (Radyo ng Bayan's "Super Radyo") seeks to present positive news ("Ang boiltong totoo"-the true news), obviously to counter the anti-administration noise generated by the rest of the media. Touring its Catholic Mass Media Award, it features informative agricultural programs at ungodly hours

One morning, I heard President Macapagal-Arroyo's recording in Taglish asiong for Filipinos to unite, saying, "Our nation is strong and getting stronger," and ending with "God bless the Philippines." This was followed by the unctuous tones of a Rafaei Dante Cruz (punctuated by a catchy American TV theme song), downplaying bird flu-no migratory birds at Candaba swamps, casualties in China and Vietnam are small, considering their large populations, so no need for the Philippines to worry. There was as much rah-rah as blah-blah.

With large numbers of medical practitioners having left the country for greener pastures, and scarce government funding for health care, the vast majority of Filipinos living outside the major towns and cines inevitably get only rudimentary, or no, health care. So faith healers, quacks and con-men like Danny can blithely prey on the desperate. (Women do it, too. One peddles a "Miracle Molecule" over a near-maudible radio station and features restimonials from folks cured of incurable diseases, while she provides phone and text numbers for information on the product.)

That radio is a powerful medium is a given, but sadly the overall quality of radio personnel and programming in the Philippines is so abysmai, it's small wonder that misuse (and abuse) takes place. With lax guidelines to promote excellence over the airwaves, this allows charlatans to prey on their listeners, turning what should be informative, educational programs into the lowest form of "en-

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Pilipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscripe" and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest

If faith sustains, love empowers

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE since all of these things were in-High Blood article of Minyong Ordonez which you published in your Dec. 30, 2005 issue. Ordonex dismissed agnostics like me as ignoramuses, empty-headed and generally lacking in intelligence. I suppose he has never heard of Albert Einstein, Louis Pasteur, Charles Darwin and countless other agnostics and atheists who

Maybe, he should stop using electricity, driving a car, watching television or taking antibiotics,

vented and/or discovered by

mostly godless people As for the value of faith, if it sustains a person or even a nation, so be it. However one should understand what faith really means and not put down those who don't share one's beliefs.

Pinally, the power of love is universal. It transcends faith and othmade tremendous contributions er things man has thought about. Thank you and Happy New Year!

-JORGE OCTAVIANO, 1 Florvii St., Delta Villege, Tendang Sore, Quezon City

Turnover of accused GIs hampered by security risks

THIS REFERS TO THE ISSUE OF who should have custody of the American servicemen accused of raping a Filipina in Subic. It reminds me of the request of the Philippine government for the extradition of Arturo Pacificador, the suspected mastermind behind the murder of Antique Gov. Evelio

I think the government of Canada did not grant the request to extradite Pacificador due to the deplorable, sub-human conditions in Philippine prisons, including the lack of security and safety of pris-

It's easy for anyone to enter prison as well as for prisoners to walk out of prison. This could be the reason why the turnover of the accused Americans to Philippine authorities has not been effected.

-ANTONIO BARRIENTOS, Alfred Avenue, Winnipeg. Manitoba, thefe@botmail.com

COMMENTARY

The women's desperate-sounding voices venture Phenomenon" program

OK, said Danny, stand in front of a mirror

OK, he said, use that, get a glass of water, place your hand over the afflicted breast, shur your eyes, breathe deeply, take a sip of water, then swivel your head till I tell you to

stop and tell me how the lump feels-was it seemed smaller. Good! He told her to keep swiveling that head.

INQUIRERNOITHEIN LUZON BUTCOU C'HE ROBANDO B. Ferrandez

Prospects bright in the North Political

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luxon Desk

OVERNMENT OFFIcials and business leaders in Northern and Central Luzon are looking forward to 2006 as a brighter year for investments in the regions.

Presidential adviser for North Luzon Renato Diaz said 2006 would be a "much better year" for Central Luzon

"Prospects are looking up for Central Luzon in all aspects such as more investments, more foreign and local tourists, more arrine flights, faster implementation of projects, more job opportunities, continuing peace and order," Diaz said

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, chair of the regional development council (RDC), said more opportunities lie in agriculture, tourism and information technology.

"If we put our efforts together and focus on our competitive edge we can surpass Southern Tagalog in 2006. Our biggest threats are insurgency and labor unrest," she said.

OUTLOOK 2006

Renato Tayag Jr., convenor of Gateways, an organization of businessmen and lo-

cal officials promoting major infrastructure projects in Central Luzon, said the region's growth this year and beyond would be driven by projects like the North Luzon Expressway, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the NorthRail.

Tayag also said the overseas direct flights to Clark and remittances from overseas Filipino workers that are now 5 funding the housing boom in the metro Pampanga area would also propel the region's engine growth

"With these major infrastructures . the influx of big real estate developers in the western side of Central Luzon for tourism are prelude to the natural growth of the regional economy. There will be more employment and infusion of money that will contribute to a better economy than 2005," said Renato Romero, business sector representative in RDC.

Levy Laus, Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said Central Luzon will continue to be "leading and interesting region."

"Its accessibility that is enhanced by the North Luzon Express will attract business expansion north of Metro Manila. It will have a very strong consumer base with a big percentage of OFWs coming from the region," he said.

Engines of growth

Antonio Ng, president and chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp., has listed key mutiatives in 2006 anchored on four engines of growth.

Ng identified these major growth engines as the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's positioning as Asia's most affordable gateway (Airport Para sa Masa), industrial development to create iob opportunities (Gawang Pinoy, Gawang Clark); tourism; and infrastructure.

Officials and investors in Clark are also keeping their hopes high for the passage of two bills in the House of Representatives that would grant tax amnesty and duty free privilege to business enterprises in the special economic zone.

In Nueva Ecga, businessmen and property owners in the province would confront increased taxes so prospects for exciting business activities are "not very bright," said Vicky Gaetos, president of the Nueva Ecija Chamber of Commerce

She said local governments in the province have increased real property

The implementation of the expanded value added tax law this year and the high cost of electricity are added wornes for businessmen.



PRESIDENT Macapagai-Arroyo during a recent seminar at the Clark Special Economic Zone.



TASK Force Subic chief retired Gen. Jose M. Callmilm and Customs collector Marietta Zamoranos go through bales of used clothing known in the vernacular as "ukay-ukay" which were illegally imported through the Subic Bay Freeport.



EMILIA Perucha of Tablac, Candon City, flocos Sur continues work in the holidays picking tobacco leaves. She is paid P150 a day. Tobacco is the premiere cash crop LECKCOG BALBIN JIL

"How we wish that more small and medium enterprises start operating in the province. But we don't hear many people interested in doing that maybe because of fear of losses," she said

Gaetos said Nueva Ecga's farmers were not getting the just reward for their hard work because of the cartel in the rice industry in the province. She said the cartel dictates the buying price of paloy

"We hope that the farmers themseives, through a strong organization, heed the call to do the milling and mar-

keting of their produce," she said Tarlac Rep. Jesh Lapus said the economic zones in Subic and Clark will continue to sustain and spark economic

growth in the region. But he said the continuing anrest at the Hacienda Luisita and the renewed activines of the New People's Army in the region will have negative effects on

the regional economy. Hacienda Lussita will remain unproductive due to the recent decision of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council revoking the stock distribution option

in the 4,000-hectare sugar estate. Joey Romasanta, vice president of the Jose Cojuangeo & Sons, the managing firm of Luisita, said the decision will further stall farm productivity as they are not going to plant sugarcane while the agrarian issue remains unsettled.

Cordillera

The Cordillera's economic outlook is moderate at best for 2006, as it survives a year "that could have gone worse," ac-

cording to Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority. Cordillera farms continue to produce

crops but only to service a lackluster vegetable market, Ngalob said He said 2005 ended with no significant improvements for the region's industries because investments had been

pouring instead into call centers iocated inside the Baguio City Economic Zone. The call center boom does not translate to higher opportunities for many

Cordillera provinces, Ngaiob said The average income of a Cordillera family is P128,078 a year but it spends

The much-hyped resurgence of mining, due to President Macapagai-Ar royo's open endorsement of the indus-

try, has not been feit in the region, where the industry was born Benguet Corp., the first Philippine mine Mining Co. and Lepanto Consolidated

Philex Mining Corp. stil. thrive in Benguet. But Philex is winding up its operations there, Nga.ob said

The Cordillers will experience [some windfall profits] if Lepanto pursues its Victoria gold project this year, but I believe we should expect that it will only restore Lepanto's original production levers," he said

Mining is also facing opposition from Cordillera towns that claim to have suffered from extractive mining from the 1950s to the 70s.

Cagayan Valley, Ilocos

In Nueva Vizcaya, 2006 is brighter for the provincial government after its success in its regal battle to collect more than P250 milion in real property tax from the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project in Alfonso Castafieda town.

"What we have collected from the Casechan project is now being used for the purchase of equipment to improve the implementation and repair of infrastructure projects such as school buildings," said lawyer Desideno Perez, provincial legal officer.

The local government, Perez said, is also bent on pursuing its share of the national wealth tax under the operation of the Casecnan project and real property and mineral taxes from existing and pending applications from small scale and large scale mining projects in the province,

Businessmen ponder on a sense of guarded optimism for their trade, said Marianuta Dango, president of the Nucva Vizcaya Bankers' Association.

"Almost all of our businessmen clients complain about how the past year has been one of the toughest for their bustnesses, primarily caused by the sharp increases in the prices of fuel," she said

Danao said the local banking sector is optimistic that the present economic crisis would continue to be offset by the increase in remittances from OFWs.

The full operation of the special economic zone in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, is also expected to boost commercial activities not only in Cagayan but in Cagayan Valley. In Isabela, Rep. Edwin Uy said the

P200-million corn oil processing plant would be put up in Gamu town to complement the corn industry in the province and create jobs. In La Union, agriculture and tourism

development will be top priority programs of the La Union provincial government in 2006, with small-scale industries receiving similar attention. Mauro Libanque Jr., provincial plan-

provincial government is embarking on a hybrid seed subsidy program for which more than P1 million has been set aside for the purchase of 1,000 bags of hybrid seeds for distribution to selected farmers. Rice production is expected to in-

crease by 20 percent, he said.

The coastal towns of San Juan and Bacnotan will be promoted as a prime surfing paradise in the North, he said, adding that investors in handlcraft manufacturing will be invited to put up their bus nesses in the area.

The province will put up an investment promotion and tourism office in San Fernando City

Libatique also said that the provincial government has also taken over the building owned by the Department of Tourism in the Rosario junction tourism complex in Barangay Saytan in Rosario town.

At least P40 million has been earmarked for the development of the area firm, was set up in 1903 in Itogon, Benguet. and the rehabilitation of the building that will be converted into a display center for La Union wood furniture products and furnishings. A one-stop-shop investment and tourism center for all travelers will also be put up in the building.

Businesses will be put up in the 68hectare commercial and tourism complex in the Poro Point special economic and freeport zone in San Fernando City. The complex, in the heart of the former Wallace Air Station, held its ceremonial opening in May last year.

Tourists and businessmen are expected to come to the provincial with commercia, flights using the San Fernando Airport starting last September.

The controversial casino operated by a United States-based firm is also scheduled to open this year in the zone, and high rollers are expected from Hong Kong and neighboring countries.

In Pangasman, the rehabilitation of two airports and the establishment of a seaport are the main projects being pursued by the provincial government to spur development in the province.

Gov. Victor Agbayam has asked the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to allocate funds for the immediate construction and development of the Sual seaport that "will play a vital role in the economic progress and industrial development in the province, creating livelihood opportunities, job generation and employment and increased port activities."

The project will serve the needs of the existing and proposed industrial zones in Pangasinan and nearby provinces, Agbayani said.

Assistant Secretary Nilo Jacico of the Department of Transportation and Communications said the DOTC and the Air Transportation Office have proposed the allocation of P15 million for the resurfacing of the runway and apron of the Lingayen airport.

Agbayani has asked local governments in Pangasinan to enact ordinances granting incentives to local and foreign investors.

In Ilocos Norte, more industries are expected to come in with the full operation of the wind power plant in Bangui town.

Long before the wind farm was built, business developers have started discussing with Bocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. potential businesses like glass and cement plants in eastern Bocos Norte towns. Reports from Tonette Orejas, Jo Martines-Clemente, Anselmo Roque, Jun Maleg, Cesar Villa, Russell Arador, Carmeia Reyes, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Villamor Visaya Jr., Peter La. Julian, Estarusiao Caldes, Ben Moses Ebreo, Melvin Gascon, Cristining and development officer, and the na Arandon and Vincent Cabreau

killings, meningo, a rape case

THE YEAR 2005 IN CENTRAL and Northern Luzon was? marked by a rape case in-a volving Americans, killings of political activists, the fear of a bacterial disease and the controversy? arising from "jueteng."

A bright note came in November and December with the resolution of a 13-month agriculture. and labor conflict in Central Luzon's biggest sugar

Subic rape case

Dubbed now as a litmus test to the 1999 RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, the alleged rape by six US Marines of a 22-year-old Filipino woman from Zambounga City happened inside the Subic Bay Freeport, a former American rawal base, on Nov.

It sparked public outrage, with critics seeing in the woman the human face of the iniquitous relationship between the Philippines and the US.

Like a blast from the past, the alleged incident brought again to the fore the issues of hosting and taking custody of American troops, matters that were contentious until after 1992 when Subsc was the last of the bases to close in Luzon.

In the bases years as now, the US military has stuck to a poucy of keeping custody of its servicemen. Four of the six soldiers charged with rape have yet to be turned over to the local courts.

What is new in this case, however, is that the VFA did give the Philippine courts the right to exercise primary jurisdiction over US military personnel who commit offenses in the country.

Political killings

By the account of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the victims of political killings in Central Luzon have risen to 47 since last January which was a record

it observed that most of the slayings happened after September when Maj. Gen. Jovito PALPARAN



Palparan Jr. assumed command of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

The killings, according to Bayan, demonstrated that the government had adopted a policy of executing activists as a means to queil opposition.

The illegal numbers game jueteng was stopped in Central and Northern Luzon in May on the heels of the renewed anti-illegal gambling crusade by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and ciaims by whistle-blowers to the Senate that the close kin of President Macapagal-Arryo were among the racket's top protectors.

Until December, the Philippine National Police continued to claim that Central Luzon remained jueteng-free. Reports of guerrilla-style operations as well as the use of the state-run E2-2 as front for justeing undermined the PNP's claums.

Hacienda Luisita

The 13-month joint strike of almost 6,000 industrial and farm laborers at the 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita reached a thorny conclusion toward the end of 2005.

Government decided to cancel the controversial stock distribution option scheme and prepared to place the estate under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agranan Reform Program.

The owner, the family of former President Corazon Aquino, appeared not keen at easily giving up the property decrying government's move as a retaliation for Aquino's opposition to President Macapagal-Arroyo amid the allegations of election cheating by the latter.

The strike saw seven workers tilled during the Nov. 16, 2004 dispersal and four leaders and supporters, including Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union president Ricardo Ramos in the next

Meningococcemia

The year 2005 hurt Baguio City because its business and social conditions were defined by a brief outbreak of a meninguis strain that killed 18 of 38 infected people between October 2004 and January 2005.

Tourists avoided the city during the 2004' Christmas holidays and this caused a sharp drop in horel bookings in Baguio, whose economy largely depends on tourism.

Attendance to the annual Bagulo Flower Pestival or Panagbenga was low due to fear of the disease. Some conventions and conferences scheduled even during the Holy Week in 2005 were canceled, according to Frederico Alquiros, gener-

al manager of the Camp John Hay Hotels Inc. A task force composed of the World Health Organization and the Department of Health discovered that the strain in Baguio was peculiar because infections did not appear to have been transmitted by carriers. Tonette Orejus and VinNONTHENN LUZUM WUMPAU Room 201 Bonuar Apartelle 10 Happy Glar Loop Baguis City Tel No (074,443-9255 Fax No. (074)443-8971 E-mail: ing_beguio@inquirer.com.ph SOUTHERN LUZON BLITLEAU 23 Autora St. Old Albay Destrict . **е**двирі Сіту Tel No (052) 820-8402 Fax No (052) 820- 274

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GMA orders P66M given for Calapan City rehab

CITY OF CALAPAN-PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo ordered the Department of Public Works Additional costs and Highways and the National Irrigation Administration to expedite the rehabilitation of the damaged protection dike in Bucayao River.

The President came here officials. yesterday aboard a hel.copter to personally inspect the damaged dike and get an update on the rehabilitation efforts be-, ing done by the provincia, government of Oriental Mindoro and the city government of Calapan

The helicopter touched down at the Jose J Leido Jr. Memorial National High School at about 10.10 a.m., where the President was welcomed by local government officials led by Goy Arnan Panaligan, Calapan City Mayor Carlos Brucal and Rep Rodolfo Valencia.

After a closed-door briefing with local officials, Ms Arroyo traveled to the Bucayao River via the Strong Republic Nautical Highway, which was closed during the recent floods, amid tight security.

At the site of the damaged protection dike, she listened to an update on the proposed flood control project from tocal

Panaligan thanked the President for the approval of the P66million fund needed to construct the permanent dikes as a permanent solution to the flood problem in Baco, San Teodoro, Naujan, Victoria, Socorro and Pinamalayan towns and Cala-

The P66 million fund will be used for the 600-lineal-meter reinforced concrete sheet pile dike that will be constructed at the Aglubang Ibulo rivers Junction, costing P61 million, and the 200-lineal-meter dike at Mt Muyod in Mag-asawang Tubig, costing P4.5 mi.kon.

These dikes are meant to control the strong flow of water into Bucayao River, which causes the latter to overflow and flood the City of Calapan and nearby municipalities

Before the construction of the permanent dikes, the NIA will put gabions at the Bucayao riverbank to prevent the latter

from being eroded.

From the initial estimate of P33 million for the 451-meter damage of the earth dike during the Dec. 7 flood, NIA manager Lis-Café said P54 million more was now needed since the damage reached 900 meters after the secand flood on Dec. 17.

The provincial government announced that P10 million of this amount was already released.

It has already started constructing a 1.2-kilometer dike behind the destroyed earth dike as an emergency measure while the gabion armoring and construction of the permanent dike at the Aglubang-Ibulo rivers unchon have not yet started.

This P8-million project, which includes the purchase of 16 hectares of land, will serve as a first line of defense in case of heavy rains and overflowing of the Bucayao River

Provincial engineer Elever Dilay said the provincial government was targeting to complete this in 20 days.

This will be followed by the rechanguling of the Bucayao River on private property that will be bought by the provincial government.

This P5-million project, to be

implemented by the DPWH starting Jan 15, is meant to straighten and weaken the flow of the river that currently turns very near the dike, causing its damage.

Highway repair

Aside from the dike construction, Panaligan asked for assistance from the national government for the immediate repair of the shoulders, approaches and other damaged areas of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway to avoid accidents.

Engineer Jovy Santos of the DPWH estimated the damage at P22.6 million.

Residents of Barangay Bucayao were curious to see Ms Arroyo and were amused to find that she looked so young.

But the President's visit seemed no big deal to some

"We're becoming poorer and poorer," said Pausina Matre, a resident of Bucayao

Vice Gov. Estela Aceron noted that there was really nothing new with the President's visit.

The press conference or media interaction announced earlier was canceled and the President and her entourage quickly left as the rain started to pour at the site. Marciano T. Virola Jr., PDI Southern Leson



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo greets some flood victims in Calapan City who were rescued from floodwaters.

Mayor sued for murder for slay of radioman

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY THE REGIONAL State Prosecutor's Office has charged with murder a town mayor of Aklan for the killing in 2004 of broadcaster Herson Hinotan af ter it reinvestigated the case

In a six page resolution dated Dec. 5, 2005, Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Virgilio Garcia ordered the filing of murder against Lezo town Mayor Alfredo "Fred" Arcenio at the Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 2

The resolution amended the homicide charge filed on March 3, 2005 against Arcenio by the Aklan Provincial Prosecutors Office.

In his resolution, Garcia said that based on testimony given by prosecution witnesses Peter Melgar, Marjone Icamina and Eddie Etrata, there was probable cause to charge Arcenio with murder Melgar had earner claimed that he saw Arcenio shoot Hinolan.

Garcia, who conducted the reinvestigation after the Akian Provincial Prosecutors Office asked to be inhibited from the case, said there was treachery in the killing of Hinolan

On May 4, 2005, the Aklan RTC Branch 2 suspended the arraignment of Arcemo and ordered the provincial prosecutor's office to remvestigate the case after Hi holan's tawyer Napoleon Oducado questioned the resolution

Hinoian died on Nov. 15, 2004, two days after he was repeatedly shot in the back by a lone gunman outside a carniva, at the town proper of Kalibo, Akian.

He was station manager of dylN Bombo Radyo in Kal.bo and hosted the station's morning program "Bombohanay Bigrime."

Garcia said the shooting "was not only attended with impunity but that the act proceeded from a determined mind

He said the accused fired three successive shots at the victim who was unable to defend himself

Garcia dismissed Arcenio's allbi, supported by test monies of defense witnesses that he was not in Kalibo during the time Hi-

The mayor claimed he was in Numancia and Lezo towns on Nov. 13, 2005 until 3:30 p.m. the next day.

Citing Jurisprudence, Garcia said that alibi as a defense "deserves the barest consideration *



BAGUIO'S new pets are shown with wushu players Benjie de Vera, Daniel Parantac, Kariza Kris Chan, and their trainer, Tsing Tsong Tsai.

Baguio gets pair of dragons as new 'pets'

BAGUIO CITY-THIS CITY HAS reason to be happy for the New Year. It has a new pair of pets in tow and they wall give the city the good luck it badly needs.

Tony Candelana known more by his screen name of Tsing Tsong Tsai, said Bagulo is only the third city after Manila and Cebu to

have a pair of dragons. "We hope to debut on Jan 29 when we welcome the Year of the Dog," said Candelaria "They will bring peace and prosperity to the city."

The dragons are both 70-foot long and cost P80,000 each.

Candelaria said the dragons were given to the Chinese community of the city as a gift from the Chinese government.

"We are deeply honored to and wisdom have Bagulo chosen as recipient,"

He said the dragons would be debuting during the loca. New Year celebration on Jan 29 as well as the Bagaio Flower Festival in February.

The dragons are made of bamboo, wood, rattan, wires, coth

A revered dragon traditionally should have the horns of a stag, eyes of a demon, scales of fish, claws of an angle, footpads of a tiger, ears of a buil and whiskers

The dragon is associated by the Chinese not only with peace and prosperity but also with longevity, luck, strength, dignity

Traditionally, the longer the dragon the more successful the community becomes, Candelar

"Acquiring the dragon is one thing. Getting people to dance it is another thing," he said.

Candelaria, who was one of the trainers of the victorious wushu sanshou team during last month's Southeast Asian Games, said he is now training 60 people. to handle the two dragons.

"We need nine people to hold up the tail with poles and one to handle the head. We need three batches of dancers when they perform because the movements are so exhaustive," he said

There are also drummers and son Bureau

cymbalists who will set the thythm and the guide who will entice the dragon with a pearl or a torch at night

Before getting the dragon, the city only has a pair of dancing bons which have only three dancers working inside them.

Although the routines of the lion are more acrobatic and exhaustive, those of the dragon need more coordination and grace.

"It's like coaching a basketball team rather than a wushu team," Candelaria said. "We are following the Fu Shao style of dragon dancing from Singapore, which is more acrobatic," he added. Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Lu-

Noon marks Pangasinan town's New Year feast

DAGUPAN CITY—WHILE THE rest of the country is catching up on sleep because of New Year's Eve reveiry, residents of a village here prepared for their own version of New Year celebration on Jan. 1.

Barangay Pogo Grande is known for being a maker of firecrackers and fireworks and every year the producers and the residents gather together at noon on Jan. 1 to expiode unsold firecrackers.

This is the 12th year that this event is done according to for mer barangay cha.r Jojo Ramos

"Every year, more residents get involved in the merrymaking and more people from other places are coming to join in the celebration "he said

But this year marks a happy difference

A balikbayan from the village arrived and bought unsold firecrack ers from manufacturers so there was no business loss on their part now.

Some residents, including Ramos also bought thousands of pesos worth of the unsold firecrackers to help the small manufacturers from the village. Together, the residents tied

more than 60 000 pieces of firecrackers, which they hung 10 feet from the ground crisscrossing the main road of the visage.

The firecrackers were lighted on one end by a resident. "The explosion lasted about half an hour," Ramos said.

After the "b.g bang" ended, residents partook of mid-day meas, some of the food were leftover

from their media goche Junie Coquia, a iongtime maker of firecrackers, said he donated his unsold firecrackers and helped set

up the strings along the village road. Children and adults arke milled around the street to enjoy the fireworks. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luson

US troops to take part in Sulu humanitarian mission

exercise, the same as the one conducted in Basilan in 2002, will start in Sulu this month.

US Co. James Linder, commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP), to.d reporters that more US soldiers will be arriving

the next couple of weeks. We will an that about \$700,000 will be

will be coming in the area (Sulu) " Linder said.

But he refused to give more details, only saying that a "large amount of money" will be spent by the US government for the activity.

In October last year, Lt Col. Mark Zimmer, public affairs offi-Yes, Balikatan will happen in cer of the JSOTPP told the INQUIR-

fund, Zimmer said will be spent on humanitarian projects.

Linder said the US forces who will be in Sulu win be "predomnantly engineers, doctors, constructing crews, to build schools, dig some wells, and hopefully move in to (other areas) if we can

find great success there " "We found great success in Basilan and we are hoping to

ZAMBOANGA CITY-A BALIKATAN receive additional US forces that used for the exercise Bulk of the replicate that kind of success in Sum also if we can find success there, we would like to extend to other archipelago. We've been in contact with the politica, leaders and mu tary leaders of Tawi-Tawi," Linder said

Outgoing Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ediberto Adan said that what the US personnel will be doing in Sula "is not Balikatan but Bayan,han exercise."

Adan also stressed that the achvity simply downpiays the issue of strained ties with the US following allegations of US soldiers raping a Filipina in Olongapo City.

On Jan 17 a month-long joint Photppine United States anti-terrorism exercise will start in Carmen, North Cotabato. Julie S. Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitein, PDI Mindanao Bureau

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

(In exact order)



Editor Ester G. Dipasupil



SHOELESS SHOEMAKER

He may be surrounded by shoes but Carlos Ergano, 70, says he cannot afford to buy himself a new pair. Ergano has been repairing shoes for other people for 40 years.

Recto accuses ex-lover of kidnapping son

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FITNESS EXPERT PLINKY RECTO HAS ACcused her former lover, whom she had already charged with domestic abuse last year, of abducting their one-year-old son in Mandaluyong City yesterday morning.

"The father of my son is a notorious gangster. He kidnapped my son this morning," Recto said

Her lawyer announced they were prepared to do all legal means possible at the soonest possible time" to get the boy back

What puzzied Recto and her lawyer, Viriato Dupaya, was the court order her former lover carried with him when he took their son from her home at the Wack-Wack Heights Condominium on Lee Street in Barangay Addition

While Recto filed a case against her lover in the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial last year, it now turns out that he also filed a case

against her in Negros Occidental

Both cases cited the same law, Republic Act 9262, which is known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of

The father, a wealthy lawyer in Negros Occidental, easily walked past the security guards of the usually strictly secured compound, armed with a court order from the Regional Trial Court Branch 62 in Bago City, Negros Occidental.

He was assisted by a court sheriff and at least eight operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region,

Recto said "He had a court order which he showed to our officer-in-charge. We had no choice but to let him in," a security guard told the INQUIRER.

In his petition before the Bago City RTC, Recto's former lover claimed she has not been a responsible mother, always leaving their son to

the care of their maids. Recto's friends quickly said the contents of

the petition, a copy of which they obtained only vesterday, were "not true."

Judge Henry Trocino granted Recto's former lover "temporary custody" of their son as well as a 30-day protection order barring her from going near him, based on court documents Recto showed to reporters.

Ironically, Recto had also secured a 30-day temporary protection order against her former lover from the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial

"We will question the propriety of the temporary protection order. We will file the appropriare legal remedies," Dapaya said.

Her former lover arrived about 10:30 a.m. yesterday while she was in a meeting at the Ateneo De Manila University in Quezon City, Recto

"We begged him not to take the baby because Ms Plinky was not here. But he just yelled back at us," one of Recto's two housemands told in-

Boy diagnosed with suspected meningo

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF THE Amang Rodriguez Medical Center (ARMC) in Marikina City was closed for several hours yesterday morning after a 4-year-old boy admitted to the hospital was diagnosed with the dreaded meningococcernia.

"We stopped operations for about two hours because we had to clean the area," ARMC Director Ricardo Lustre told the INOURER.

He also ordered at least 12 physicians, murses and janitors who came into close contact with the victim to take doses of prophy-

Relatives of the boy, as well as his other neighbors in Barangay Malanday who had contact with him, were also given medicine.

The boy was taken to the hospital at about 10 p.m. Monday because of high fever.

Physicians who treated him "confirmed, based on initial tests" that the boy had the dreaded disease, Lustre said.

From the hospital, he was transferred to the San Lazaro Hospita. at about 3.30 a.m. yesterday for proper treatment.

Lustre said the boy appeared to be doing well as he still seemed

"The hospital officials told us it was good we were able to transfer the boy immediately. His chances of surviving are high," Lustre added.

Confirmatory tests to verify if the boy ready has meningococcerma will be released in three

Aquino murder convict killed by another man?

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A THIRD PARTY MAY HAVE been involved in the killing of one of the 16 soldiers convicted for the murder of opposition politician Benigno Aquino Jr. and Rolando Galman in 1983, said a New Bib bid Prisons (NBP) insider.

Retired police sergeant Cordova Estelo was stabbed dead in the right side, near his chest, by Manuel Ocenar, a fellow inmate at the maximum security compound, on New Year's Eve.

Quoting witnesses, the NBP insider told the INQUIRER yesterday that before Estelo was killed, he grappled with Ocenar for possession of his .25-cal. pistol

"It is common knowledge here that Ocenar is left handed," he

If he had stabbed Estelo with his right hand, then the latter should have sustained a wound in his left side, he noted.

Ocenar, also called "Kalawit" for his defeness with a knife, is the head of the Batang City Jail gang inside the prison.

Estelo's co-inmate, who asked not to be named for security reasons, said that a certain Berting Calamba could have helped out Ocenar during the scuffle and

may have been the one who stabbed Estelo.

He had seen Calamba, also a member of the BCJ, drinking with Ocenar all day on Saturday, the inmate told the INQUIRER.

"We haven't seen him around (the maximum compound) after the incident, (it's) as if he's in hiding," said the inmate.

Fr. Robert Olaguer, who had befriended the Aquino-Galman convicts, said that although he has his own theories about the incident, he will wait for the results of the probe being conducted by the NBP's Investigation Section.

"After the investigation is finished, we could compare notes," Olaguer told the INQUIRER

Another NBP insider said that Estelo's death may have had something to do with the management of the multi-purpose covered court that convicted child rapist and ex-Zamboanga congressman Romeo Jalosjos built for the inmates' use

Estelo acted as the overseer of the multi-purpose covered court while Ocenar was relieved from his post as the facility's gare offi cer in mid December.

The insider added that the BCJ wanted to take control of the covered court.

Rebellion case hits another snag

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE REBELLION CASE filed against terror suspects were staded anew vesterday after the new judge handling the case ordered its transfer to another family court.

Makati Regional Tinal Court (RTC) Branch 144 Judge Evelyn Arcaya Chua announced in open court that she was inhibiting herself from the case, involving alleged members and leaders of the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), out of deucadeza.

case in the DOJ (Department of Justice) where she is the respondent in her personal capacity, she might as well voluntarily inhibit herself," said lawyer Raymund Palad, one of the private defense counse.

"The DOJ can either recommend the filing or dismussal of the case against her, so, to forestall any doubt that she will be biased in this [rebel-

lion) case... she decided to mhibit herself," Palad explaned.

The rebellion case against the RSM and ASG members was filed by the DOJ in November. The suspects included alleged RSM leader Hilarion Sanros, his wife Harmah, a 17-year old girl and ASG leader Khadaffy Janjalani. They were accused of involvement in several bombing attacks which had taken place in Metro Manila and key cities in the provinces.

The case had been transferred to Arcaya-Chua's sala from a regular court in December af-"The judge feels that since she has a pending ter the defense proved that one of the accused was a minor. Court rules require designated family courts to handle cases involving minuts.

With the judge's announcement, the case would again be re-raffled to Makati RTC's three remaining family courts.

"We can't do anything, it's the right of the judge to voluntarily inhibit themselves," Palad



Invented for life

Murder suspects charged

THE MAKATI Police Department (MPD) has filed charges of murder and attempted murder against 11 robbery suspecis who killed a Makati policeman last week, Charged were Felix Ponting, Allan Captino, Rychie Sevilla, Armando Villanueva. Roselyn Biarroa. who were all arrested by the police, and six other unidentified suspects who remain at large. An additional charge of illegal possession of explosives was filed against Blanca, as the police found an M26 fragmentation grenade inside her bag when they arrested her The charges were filed in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office on Saturday, two days after PO3 Avelino Santos died while on patrol at around 10 a.m. on Dec. 28. Santos had approached the vehicle after ha noticed that the occupants were acting suspiciously. The suspects, however, pulled him inside the vehicle and shot him dead. Senior Supt. Efren Ysulat, MPD Deputy Chief for Administration, said Santos would soon be recommended for posthumous promotion. Tarra V. Quismondo

Not the weaker sex

A SUSPECTED robber got more than he bar-



METROBRIEFS

gained for when he tried to grab the gun of a policewoman inside a passenger bus in Caloocan City at around Monday noon, PO1 Marilou Ricardo, 27, assigned at the National Capital Region Maritime Group, reacted

quickly when Raymond Bulla, 26, tried to take her gun which was in a holster hanging on her waist "Had the suspect succeeded in snatching the ffrearm, he could have used it to rob the bus passengers," the investigator, SPO1 Ferdinand Sarmiento, said in his report. "The policewoman reacted by twisting the arm of the suspect who screamed in pain," one of the witnesses told the police. The suspect tried to light back but he proved no match for Ricardo, a hand-to-hand combat expert. Other bus passengers also helped subdue Bulla. Found in his pockets were sachets which were later found to contain shabu.

Nancy C. Carvajal

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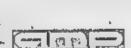
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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Record-breakers look forward to cash bonuses /A18 E Roach trains Gorres, Amonsot



☑ Knicks set Suns in triple overtime



foes welcome Hingis back /A19



Gin Kings, Barako seek semis berth

Phone Pals take on Express

REFRESHED BY THE CHRISTmas holiday break, Red Bull Barako and Barangay Ginebra dispute the second and last semifinal slot today at the resumption of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Barako and the Gm Kings split their matches in the conference, where they finished the classification round with identical 9-7

But the Barako will have to adapt to a different type of opponent, which is far from the up-anddown Gin Kings they met in the prelimmaries.

Chris Porter has been giving the Gin Kings an added leverage inside the paint after replacing Sean Lampley while Marc Caguroe's game is peaking at the right time.

They're a different team from the one we battled before because of their import," said Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guao. But we've proven ourselves against them and the biggest thing now is to win the playoff"

The winner of the 7:25 p.m. contest books an automatic ticket together with early qualifier Purefoods Chunkee in the best-of-five semifinals

The loser settles for a quarterfinal slot along with the winner of the Talk N Text-Air21 clash

earlier at 4.40 p.m. With a possible replacement waiting in the

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome) 4.40 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Air21 7:25 p.m.—Red Bull

will have to prove his worth and convince the Red Bull management that changing imports in midstream Barako vs Sarangay is not advisable.

wings, Quemont Green

Greer has been complaining of lines and foot ailments as reasons for his mediocre performances lately, forcing team officials to put 6-

foot-6 James Penny on stand by. Enrico Villanueva, Mick Pennisi and Paolo Bugia will have their hands full containing the Ginehra frontime while Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela and rookie Larry Fonacier must find ways

to stop Jaylay Helterbrand and Caguioa. "For sure they will try to stop our big men and guards but we're ready to make adjustments anytime," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen, whose Kings made the playoff after beating the Alaska Aces on Christmas day.

"Right now, we're working on our executions. I'm sare it will be a fast game," he added.

But if there's one thing that motivates the Kings to beat the Barako, it's their hunger for revenge after Red Bull eliminated the crowd favorites in the quarterfinals last conference.

"We don't want that so happen again. Aside from the semifinal seat, pride is also at stake," said Tanquingcen.

The winning team will enjoy a three-week rest and the knowy of watching the fight for survival in



120 solons want PSC budget increased

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THINGS ARE FINALLY LOOKING UP FOR Philippine sports.

As an offshoot of the country's winning the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last month, at least 120 congressmen have signed a resolution increasing the budget for RP sports to as high as P250 million a year

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said the new budget for the Philippine Sports Commission is "a done deal" because among the signatories are members of the powerful House budget and appropriations committee

"We also presume that the senators will join us in this crusade as a reward for the superb performance of our athletes," said Puentevella, who is also the vice president of the Philippine Olympic Commuttee.

The PSC budget, which has been cut drastically by the past administrations, is currently at an all-time low of P26 million from as high as P200 million during the time of President Ramos.

"After getting more than 120 signatories we feel very optimistic that the PSC budget is now a done deal. I thank all our colleagues especially in the appropriations committee," Puentevella

"We now must move forward toward greater heights. Our athletes need this essential push to attain our objective, be it in the forthcoming Asian Games or the Olympics in 2008," added Puentevella, who also served as PSC commissioner for a record seven year

The resolution came on the heels of President Macapagai-Arroyo's renewed call to support RP sports with emphasis on 10 disciplines that could give the country its first Olympic gold in Beijing two years from now.

"This move will show our athletes that we are tories in behalf of the nation but also that we are fully supportive of them when they prepare and train for future compensions in order to bring more honor and presuge to our country," Puentevella said

Aside from the national athletes' monthly stipend and meal allowances, the PSC spends for the upkeep of the government-owned sports facilities like the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the Philsports in Pasig.

The agency also gets a monthly share from the earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation amounting to an average of P22 million to fund the training of the national athletes through the National Sports Development Fund.

The SEAG-winning achletes have been rewarded cash incentives on top of an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong Disneyland through the First Gendeman's Foundation.

2 more crack sparmates in Morales camp



ranked fighters have been commissioned yesterday by Erik "El Terrible" Morales to spar with him at the Queretaro Mountains as he plunges into the most crucial weeks of training for his Jan. 21 rematch with Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao.

The latest addition brings to seven the number of sparsouthpaws-who mates—all take turns in honing the boxing

world champion from Tijuana,

American Freddie Norwood, who reigned as WBA featherweight champ from 1998 to 2000, and Daniel Arrah, a Nigerian super featherweight, have arrived at the Queretaro to join Morales and his team of fighters and physical condimoning coaches.

Already in the camp with Morales are Raymundo "Pana-

A PAIR OF FORMER WORLD- skills of the three-division former dero" Gonzalez, Pitti Leyva and Betillo Guttierez. Set to arrive this week to join them are Steven Luevano and Fernando "Wary"

> Raul Robles, Morales' physical conditioning coach, revealed last Saturday that his ward had run the well-known Cerro dei Cubilete (Hill of the Tumblers) in Mexico, a nine-kilometer ascent, and did it in a little more than one

Meanwhile, Pacquiao is reportedly holding a teleconference with members of the media today from his base at the Wild Card Gym. The Filipino star will answer queries from journalists, who will be briefed on his preparations for the rematch.

Morales, for his part, is set to hold his teleconference tomorrow from his training base in Mexico. Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

PSA renews ties with regular backer

A LONGTIME PARTNER OF LOCAL SPORTS IS AGAIN lending a big hand when the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) honors the top sports achievers of 2005 during its Annual Awards Night on Jan. 14 at the Manila Pavilion.

For the 11th time, Photokina marketing, the company behind top energy drink Red Bull, renewed its partnership with the country's sportswriting fraternity, which made the victorious Team Philippines in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games its Athlete of the Year for 2005.

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose "Peping" Comangeo Jr. will be the guest of honor and speaker the two-hour award rites also expected to be graced by the country's other top sports officials.

"Again we appreciate the whole-hearted support Photokina is extending us in ensuring that the Annual

Awards Night will be a big success again," said PSA president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya. "We are also grateful to Mr. George Chua for helping us again."

Chua is the executive vice president of Photokina, a regular sponsor of the yearly awards rites, while Red Bull has been a constant supporter of the weekly PSA Forum.

Tapped to host this year's affair, to be shown on a delayed basis over NBN-4, is amateur basketball star Alex Compton and popular sports broadcaster Patricia

Bermudez-Hizon. Charming diver Shiela Mae Perez, winner of three gold medals in the biennial meet, will accept the huge trophy in behalf of Team Philippines, which captured the overall title for the first time since it began competing in the SEA Games in 1977

Twenty two athletes, among them boxing sensation

Marry Pacquiao, golf star Jermifer Rosales and Perez, will be the recipients of major awards from the country's oldest media organization.

All the 113 gold medal winners in the SEA Games on the other hand, will be bestowed special citations. Heading the list of entities and personalities to be giv-

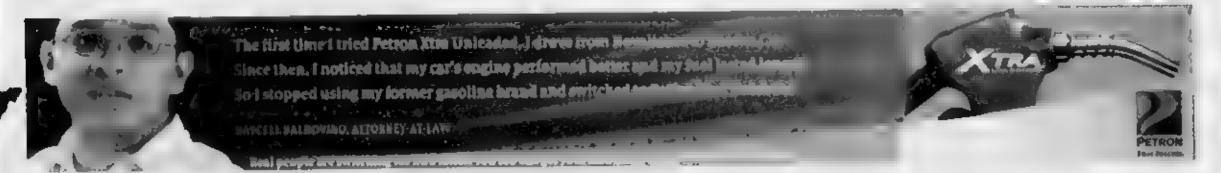
en citations is San Miguel Corp. which doled our P100 million to the First Gentleman's Foundation as part of the athletes' training for the SEA Games.

For scoring a six gold-medal romp in the SEA Games, the Philippine Dragon Boat Pederation was unanimously voted as the most outstanding national sports association while the Philippine Paralympics team will be handed out a special award.

The Para Games RP contingent bagged a record 22 gold medals in the 3rd ASEAN Para Games.



AWARDEES: SEA Games triple gold medalist Shiela Mae Perez (right) with synchrotized springboard partner Cesell Domenios.



Lina not giving

SPORTS

Roach trains Gorres, Amonsot



Z GORRES (right) and Czar Amonsot, in awentshirts due to the cold LA weather, will start training under Freddie Roach today, PHISCHING.COM

TOP-RANKED ORIENTAL AND PACIFIC parties and foods were in abundance, Boxing Federation super flyweight Z Gorres and WBO Asia Pacific super featherweight king Cezar Amonsot start their rigid training today under ace trainer Preddie Roach at the American's Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles

Pilipino trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor, in message to Philboxing.com, said Gorres and Amonsot will finally be going through serious gym training after doing mostly jogging, skipping rope and shadow-boxing since their arrival last Dec. 27.

"Despite the holiday season where

Gorres and Amonsot strictly adhered to their descipined diet by avoiding sweet and fatty foods to maintain their training weights," Villamor told Philboung.com.

There is a strong possibility that Samuel Lopez, who is a protegé of Guilty Promotions and earlier lined up to face Gorres, may not be fighting the Pilipino as the promoter has not confirmed their

But Amonsot's date with Arturo Quintero has already been decided

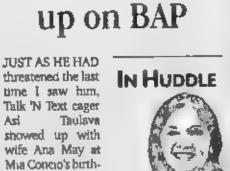
Gorres and Amonsot are scheduled to

spar tomorrow against separate boxers, although the bigger Amonsot will most likely not spar with Manny Pacquiso because of his southpaw stance.

Pacquiao is also training at the Wild Card gym for his rematch on Jan. 21 with Morales, who is a right-hander.

Gones and Amonsot will train two weeks at the Wild Card gym and then will motor to Las Vegas for the last phase of their training for their fight on Feb 3

While in Las Vegas, former JMP trainer Tony Martin will play host to the fighters. Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor



his old blond hair-In a previous so- Beth Celis

gathering which he attended about two weeks earlier, some friends teased Asi about how his closecropped hair and stubby beard had accentuated his dark features and made him look tike a terrorist

day party sporting

Right then and there, As declared he would color his hair yellow again.

Asi said he went from blonde to brunette-his natural hair color-hoping the "pahiyang" would change his luck. At that time, he was having enormous problems with his citizenship documents. After that was settled, he had to contend with PBA commissioner Noh Eaua, who refused to allow him to play.

Although the round of socials during the Christmas season failed to produce a major column item, the informal discussions were lively and interesting, perhaps mainly because the guests we encountered were just as equally interesting.

At Mia's party for example, which was held at the sprawling Concio residence at La Vista in Quezon City, I met Soiar Entertairment Corp. head honcho William Cheng and COO Peter Chianliong for the first time. It was also the first time that I learned Solar was airing the forthcoming Pacquiso-Morales rematch over ABS-CBN, and not RPN-9 where most of the Pacquino fights had been telecast.

All right long, columnist Ronnie Nathanielsz, who shared our table, tried to pin down Peter for the "real" reason behind the shift, but all the Solar official would say was that ABS-CBN had expressed its interest to air the fight, and the offer was one that could not be refused.

Ronnie was unconvinced. Mia, who is president of RPN-9, showed no reaction.

Meanwhile, former PBA marketing manager Robbie Puno, who now hosts a radio program, was eager to be updated on the state of Philippine basketball.

He asked for a prediction. Will the BAP be reinstated in the POC? Will the ban on the Philippines finally be lifted?

No one at our table could provide an answer. But Ronnie Nathanielsz did remind everyone that BAP president Joey Lina had been given a March deadline by Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann to come up

with a new, revitauzed BAP No wonder I heard from someone, somewhere that Joey is very busy these days, drafting a new constitution and by-laws for the organization. This same person also said a revamp is imminent and warred me not to be surprised if and when the new table of organization is announced to the public.

I had hoped to bump into Chot Reyes at Mia's party, because last year he was there. Pve often wondered why Chot has so far not resumed his coaching post at Coke.

I wanted to ask hum if the national team was still practicing and how he was keeping himself busy in the face of the continuing national basketball crisis.

But Chot didn't show up. His close buddy Butch Antonio did, however, so I posed the questions to him instead. Butch talked about a projected tourney for Chot and the national team early thus year, but that's just about all he could say He asked why I wasn't at the Butch Manlego event which raised exactly P157,000 for the ailing PBL official who is undergoing dialysis and needs a kidney transplant ASAP

Of course, we had to touch on the controversial Ateneo-La Salle Dream Game organized by Vintage, Bobong Velez being on the same table, right in the midst of several Areneo alumni and Biue Eagles coach Norman Binck who was seated next to him. Norman said the Eagles are now immersed in training for the next UAAP season. No, there was no pressure nor negative feedback from the Ateneo alumm and for this, Norman considers himself very bicky.

Now I can't remember what purty it was where I picked up the report that San Miguel Beer import Kevin Freeman and actress Jackie Forster are back in each other's arms again, despite her pregnancy. From what I gathered, Kevin is willing to serve as father of Jackie's child, who had been aban doned by its model-father. According to our source, the only problem is, Kevin might be replaced soon by the import he replaced, Kwan Johnson, who has recovered from his mjury. San Miguel lost two games in a row with Kevin at the helm.

I must've sat two hours right beside Franz Pumaren at a New Year's Day auncheon, but we hardly touched on the eligibility controversy which is awaiting closure pending the UAAP board's decision.

"Do you think La Salle will be suspended?" I asked Franz who resigned his coaching job about two months ago.

"Do you think it will be?" he answered.



Arnell Ferreira, one of only two Filipino athletes to set a new SEAG mark during the recent Games, asked this question yesterday from his hometown in Cauayan, Negros Occidental, a three-hour ride from

"I heard that there could be a cash incentive for the record breakers," said the 24-year-old thrower, who hursed the men's hammer to a distance of 60.47 meters, erasing the 12-year-old record of 58.80m set by Wong Tee Kui of Malaysia

He told the INQUIRER that he didn't want to sound materialistic, but Phil.ppine Sports Commissioner Ambrosio de Luna had told him that an incentive for SEAG record breakers can be worked out.

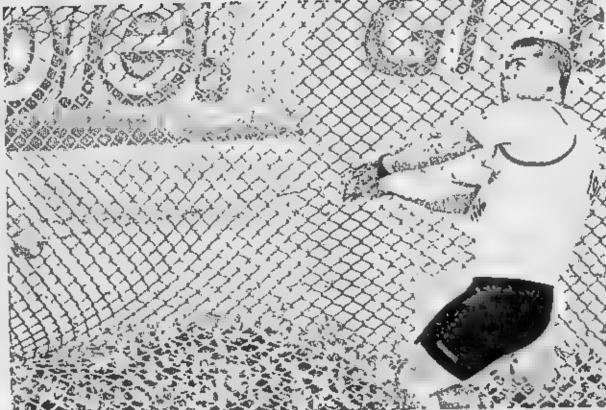
The only other Filipino athlete to match Ferreira's feat was long jumper Henry Dagmil, who cleared 9.81m to better the old mark of 7 79m.

"It's okay to win a gold medal in the SEA Games, but winning it in record fashion is something special because you managed to raise the bar of compention," said Perreira, who was recently promoted from Airman second class to Airman first class in the Phinppine Air Force.

The soft-spoken Ferreira rued the fact that he and Dagmil have been overlooked in favor of fellow athletes who won multiple gold medals in the biennial

Ferreira, who received P100,000 and joined the First Gentleman Foundation-sponsored trip to Hong Kong for his golden performance, said he would use the money for training in case he can't find a sponsor for this year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

The two-time SEAG champion is flying back to Manila today after treating his parents and relatives to a New Year party in Cauayan



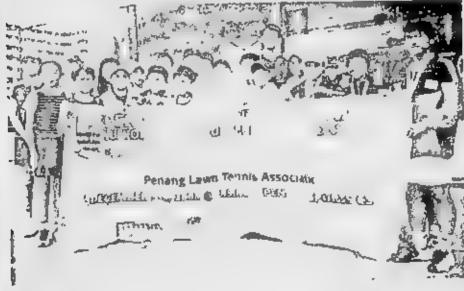
WAITING FOR WORD: Arnell Ferreira sets up for his record-breaking haul in the recent SEA Games.

"I shared my blessings with the people who have been praying for me," said Ferreira, who also won a gold in the Vietnam SEAG in 2003, "But I saved half of my prize money, I also need to save for the future."

He was attending high school in St. Columban's Academy when his throwing skills were discovered He developed them further in nanonal-level compentions while representing Binalbagan Catholic College.

Ferreira said the current Asian Games standard of 78 meters and the continental record of 84 meters were way off his personal best

But Ferreira, who in his first SEAG stint in 2001 threw 50 meters, said he has been improving at a rate of five meters every two years. This, he agrees, could only mean something good for him in Doha or even in the Beijing Olympics in 2008



BIG IN MALAYSIA

Filipino junior netters Sally Mae Siso, Jacob Lagman, Bernardine Siso, Roman Floreza and Martina Guba Join the other winners in the recent Selangor International Age Group Tennis Championships. The Philippine team was represented in the international competition by the Milo squad of champions.

Adidas tennis circuit expands college roster

COLLEGIATE STANDOUTS FROM THE their stuff south dominated the final tournament of the 2005 Adidas Tennis Circuit held ast month at the Alta Vista courts in

Janii Soquino of the University of Cebu Webmaster, Ploreza Alesna of the University of San Carlos, Macy Solon of Dumaguete University and University of the Visayas' Karl Canete and Francis Largo ruled their respective di-

Meanwhile, the Adidas Tennis Chalenge incorporated several inter-coilegiate tournaments in its calendar last year and gave the powerhouse collegrate squads another arena to strut

University of Santo Tomas, Polyrechnic University of the Philippines, La Salle, San Beda, San Sebastian and the University of the Philippines, to name a few, have all seen action in the circuit and figured prominently.

Other schools from the UAAP and the NCAA are expected to sign up this

The Adidas netfest, organized by the CTW with support from Milo, Globe Gentext and Snickers, also held events in Cagayan de Oro, Mandaluyong Tennis Club, UP-Diliman Tennis Club and at the Eusebio Tennis Club in Pasig last year

Secretary Reyes, Mayor Atienza versus barangay fascist

ONCE WE HAVE A WAR, THERE IS ONLY

one thing to do. It must be won.

That's not Manny Pacquiae making a vow for his biggest fight, one he can't afford to lose against Mexican Erik Morales, in Las Vegas later this month

That's Ernest Hemingway, stressing a time-honored theme, in his introduction to "Men at War," a collection of the best war stories of all time, featuring Leo Tolstoy, T.E. Lawrence, William Faulkner, Winston Churchill, Stephen

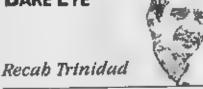
Crane and others. Hemingway insisted that victory was an utmost necessity because defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in a war."

Well, this one is about a small bat-

It's about how victory was initially achieved by a group of poor jeepney drivers, who used to be terrorized by a fascist barangay chair in that righthand area after the Lambingan Bridge in Santa Ana, Manila.

The drivers, who ply the Vergara-Kanto stretch in Mandaluyong, started the year feeling very thankful now that the dreaded barangay official, Kaulayaw "Laying" Espinosa, had been forced to momentarily give

BARE EYE



back their right to pick up and unload passengers in the busy corner right after the Lambingan Bridge.

Members of the Vergara Drivers Association, now headed by hard-hitting Bening Santos, have been assured by no less than Interior and Local Governments Secretary Angelo Reyes that he would not allow their rights to be trampled upon.

"I cannot tolerate that," Reyes said upon reading here about the criminal practice of Espinosa, who had refused rightful passage to the said drivers, while allowing "lilegals" from the Boni Avenue route to use the busy spot as a

"I can't allow poor drivers to be victims in this case," Reyes explained

True enough, a DILG team was sent to investigate what had been initially

reported here about the malpractice. To repeat, the shameless style of Es-

pinosa, who continues to milk drivers daluyong, are allowed to cheat and who don't have official access to the passenger-rich spot, had turned that choked "area in old Panaderos into a devil's gymnasium."

"Kalmante ngayon, everything OK," reported Santos, the newly installed head of the drivers from Barangay Vergara in riverside Mandaluyong By calm, Santos meant the drivers

under his association are no longer accosted, threatened and driven by stickwie ding toughtes away from the passenger pick-up area.

These roughies, of course, have mastered their fascist ways under Espinosa, who feed them crumbs from his enormous piggy bank that's regularly filled with bribes from the "illegals."

You see, this case indeed looks and

sounds very petty. It's no battle at all, if we go by the wars Hemingway spoke of.

However, official records would bear that Vergara drivers are really the ones who have rightful access to the pick-up area after Lambingan.

But through the machinations of Espinosa, the scheming barangay head, nearly 300 jeepneys with no lawful tickets to pass through the foot of Lambingan going to Man-

thereby regularly clog traffic.

Espinosa, in demanding bribes from Santos so his members could continue using the terminal, had openly admitted to the head of the Vergara drivers how much he takes from four Boni Avenue associations every week.

The odd thing here is that, after the DILG had paid him a visit, Espinosa obviously thought he could go on his mulcring ways, now that he had also allowed the Vergara jeepneys their rightful access to the termina.

But knowing Secretary Reyes, he knows there's no such thing as halfbaked victories.

Last heard of, Reyes has assigned Peliciano Regis of the DILG civil affairs section to investigate Espinosa.

"Once we are through with the probe, we forward our findings to the City Mayor of Manila, who will make the necessary moves," Regis told the lit-

Knowing Mayor Lito Atjenza, he won't think twice before turning that initial win into a full-scale victory for the oppressed dr.vers.

Attenza won't allow these small people to be defeated again.

Knicks shade Suns in triple overtime

NEW YORK-STEPHON Marbury poured in 32 points, including seven in the third overtime period, to guide the New York den on Monday.

Knicks to a

Phoenix

Madison

Square Gar-

Jamal Crawford contributed 29

points and seven rebounds to the

New York effort while David Lee

added a career-high 23 points and 15

rebounds and Eddy Curry helped out

with 20 points and 15 boards as the

high 39 points and 14 boards for

Phoenix while Steve Nash had 28

Suns at

140-133

Knicks recorded just their second win ın 12 games Shawn Marion hit for a season-

points and a season best 22 assists as the Suns fell for the first time in five

The Knicks finally wrestled contro. of the contest in the third overtime, which opened with Curry nailing a three pointer to put New York on top

Clinging to a 133-131 lead, Marbury scored seven straight points as the Knicks opened up a 140-131 cushion then held on to register a victory Win over in their first triple-overtime game sunce Feb. 14, 1993.

It was a well-deserved victory for the struggling Knicks, who led much of the contest, constructing a 13point advantage early in the third quarter

The Suns, however, responded with 12-5 run, clawing their way back into the contest and briefly retaking the lead late in the fourth at 104-102 before Curry drained a pair of clutch free throws in the final seconds to send the game into overtime

In Indianapolis, Fred Jones scored a season-high 26 points and Stephen Jackson added 22 as the Indiana Pacers rolled to a 115-96 win over the Seattle SuperSonics

Sarunas Jasikevicius also helped out with a career best 20 points as the

Pacers ended a four game losing skid. Ray Allen led the SuperSonics with

In Oklahoma City, Chris Paul scored 24 points and dished out 11 assists and David West added 20 points and nine rebounds, sparking the New Orleans Hornets to a 103-86 win over the Charlotte Bobcats.

In Chicago, Michael Redd scored 29 points and Maurice Williams added 13 points and nine assists as the Milwaukee Bucks claimed a 93-92 win over the struggling Chicago Bulls, which slumped to their seventh straight defeat.

In Denver, Kenyon Martin had 24 points and Carmelo Anthony chipped in with 23 as the Nuggets pulled out of a three game losing skid with 120-110 win over the Boston Celtics.

O'Neal sidelined

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, Pacers All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal has pneumonia and team officials were uncertain here Monday when he would play or practice with the National Basketbal, Association team.

O'Neal did not play in a 115-96 victory over Seattle and together with the absence of Ron Artest, inactive since demanding a trade, the Pacers are without two of their major players.

to trip Russians

United States bartled back from the loss of the first singles turn the contest around. match to overcome Russia 2-1 the Hopman Cup on Tuesday.

for the United States in the mixed team tournament after they had defeated Serbia winning lob and Montenegro by the same score on Sunday

Yuri Schukin 6-2 6-0 before ing with her ninth ace. the pair teamed up to clinch the tie with a 6-4 6-1 mixed match," Kuznetsova said doubles victory.

Kuznetsova made a sluggish at the start, nervous, did start, allowing Raymond to many mistakes. But then I hold points to win the first got my game going and I was five games by exploiting the pretty happy out there." lack of depth in the Russian's unforced errors

was only able to convert on sia after injuries to Marat one of her eight break points Safin in the match, in the opening Gabashvili

AUSTRALIA-THE game, and Kuznetsova seized on Raymond's profligacy to

NEW York's Stephon Marbury tries to shake off Steve Nash with a behind-the-back dribble. REUTERS

Putting more weight into in round-robin competition at her shots and finding the range with her serve, The victory was the second Kuznetsova was able to break back and level at 3-3, and then broke again for the set with a

second Kuznetsova held off four Svetlana Kuznetsova gave break points to lead 1-0, Russia the lead by beating broke with a stunning fore-Lisa Raymond 6-4 6-1 but hand winner down the line to Taylor Dent responded for lead 2-0 and then broke to Americans, defeating love to lead 5-1 before finish-

"I really enjoyed today's

"I didn't play since Zurich Former US Open champion in October so I was a bit stiff

Dent began as an overshots and her succession of whe.ming favorite against 299th-ranked Schukin, who However, the American was the third choice for Rus-Termuraz Reuters

Americans rally Old foes welcome Hingis back

HONG KONG-WORLD NO. 1 Lindsay Davenport and the Williams sisters on Tuesday welcomed Martina Hingis' tennis comeback, with Serena Williams saying she's rooting for the five-time Grand Slam singles winner and Davenport observing that her return is good for the sport.

"I was actually really excited to hear that Hingis was going to come back. Honestly, she was such a great player in her time and her time is still our time," Serena Williams told reporters ahead of Hong Kong's Champions Challenge exhibition tournament, which begins Wednesday.

"I'm actually rooting for her unless, of course, she plays me," she said

Her older sister Venus was like wise enthusiastic and predicted Hingis will perform well

"I think anything that's an addibon to women's tennis is awesome and I think she'll do well,"

Davenport said Hingis' return to competitive tennis will draw more attention to the women's

"I think it adds another great story line to women's tennis and I think it's going to be very interesting to see how she comes back after a couple of years away from the game," she said.



HINGIS is all smiles after her doubles victory with Tatiana Golovin.

when asked if Hingis could climb back to the top echelons of women's tennis.

"I mean, each player is definitely unique and different so we'll obviously see in the next few months how Martina is able to cope with that, so it's very hard to say now," she said

"I think that .t's a very, very

Davenport was diplomatic tough sport Obviously Martina has been one of the best players that has ever played, so I'm sure she wouldn't be coming back unless she felt like she could make this transition," Davenport said

Hingis, who retired in 2002 because of foot, heel and ankle inher comeback Monday, bearing

Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the Australian women's hardcourt championship on the Gold Coast, She will play in the Australian Open, which she has won three

The Swiss player has said the standard of women's tennis has risen since she left the game and that she has to improve.

Others in the field of eight women in Hong Kong are reigning US Open champion Belgian Kim Chisters, world No. 8 Russian Elena Dementieva, India's Sania Mirza, the Czech Republic's Nicole Vandisova and China's

The Williams sisters said they are feeling physically fit after being bogged down by injuries late last year.

Serena won the Australian Open in 2005 and Venus won Wimbledon, but the sisters faded later in the year, with neither qualifying for the season-ending WTA Championships Serena played only 28 matches all

"Injuries are part of sports, but right now, (I'm) solid," Venus Wi nams said

Davenport, who turns 30 m juries, won her first match since June, dismissed talk of retire-

Chance for lesser lights as Tiger, Phil, Ernie and Retief sit out 1st PGA event

LOS ANGELES-IN THE ABSENCE OF TIGER Woods, Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els, the game's lesser lights have a chance to make an impact this week at the PGA Tour's seasonopening Mercedes Championships in Hawaii

World number two Vijay Singh, who faded to fifth in last year's tournament after leading for the first three days, is the only member of the world's top five in the elite field at the Kapalua Resort. Top-ranked Woods, champion in 1997 and

2000, has decided to skip his usual early-season event to spend more time at home after p playing a full schedule last year. "I just need some time away from the game," the US Masters and British Open

champion said on his official website 'As much as I enjoy going to Kapalua Resort, it's been a long senson and I have played a lot of golf. I need a break to recharge my batteries, let my body heal and hang out with family and friends.

Woods, who celebrated his 30th birthday three days ago, will launch his 2006 campaign at the Buick invitational in La Jolla, Ca.formia later this month.

US PGA champion Mickelson, twice a winner of the Mercedes Championships when it was staged at La Costa Country Club in Carlsbad, California, has opted to miss this week's event for the fourth time in five years.

In 2004, the San Diego resident was not eligible to play in the tournament that brings together all the winners from the previous PGA

South African Els, champion at Kapalua's



VIJAY: Only silts player in field.

Plantation Course in 2003 with a record tournament aggregate of 261 and runner-up to Woods there in 2000, is another notable absentee this week, along with compatriot Retief Goosen, the world number four.

Pifth-ranked Els will miss the first two events of the PGA Tour season in an attempt to improve on his disappointing form at last

Big Easy', as he is affectionately known, will not play on American soil until the Nissan Open in California in mid-February, the start of his serious build-up to the April US Masters, the first major of the year

While Woods and company are conspicuous by their absence this week, Australia's Stuart Appleby will have his sights set on joining Gene Littler in the record books with a third successive victory.

Appleby, who held off a furious late charge by Singh to triumph at Kapalua in 2004 by a shot, became the event's first back-to-back winner in 22 years last January with a closing round of six-under-par 67.

"I think every player comes here and thinks. 'Wow, this is fantastic'," the 34-yearold Australian said after his 2005 triumph.

"But I've always had that mentality that it's ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—AUSone shot at a time. That's an attitude that I did have last year, I know that.

I don't win tournaments unless I have that mentality."

American Littler won the tournament at Desert Inn Country Club in Las Vegas from 1955 to 1957 when the event was known as the Tournament of Champions.

The 28-strong field for the tournament which starts on Thursday will face a revamped par-73 Plantation Course.

All the greens have been replaced since last year, with renovated contours on the putting surfaces at the fourth, eighth and 15th. New bunkers have been installed on the 15th and



PHILIPPOUSSIS: Back on track

Philippoussis blazes own comeback trail

tralian Mark Philippoussis won his opening round at the Adelaide International Tuesday, adding later that his best tennis was still to

Philippoussis, who has been plagued by injury and bad form and was ranked 172nd in the world going into the match, beat American world No. 75 Vince Spaces 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Philippoussis, a former Wimbledon and US Open finalist, has been in a slump since early 2004 and was granted a wildcard entry to the tourna-

"It's good to get out on court and get that monkey that turned into a gorilla off my shoulders," he said after the

"I've been working hard in Miami for the past two-and-ahalf months to build up to this

"I know I still have my best tennis yet to play." Phi.ippoussis will now face either Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty or Australian qualifier Rameez Junaid, who were to meet later

Is it the Indian or the arrow?



By Jun Engracia

IF NOBODY HAS DOMINATED THE bowling scene since the reign of bowling king and queen Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo, blame it on equipment and technology.

Nepomuceno and Coo, who have domanated the sport since the '70s, say advances in ball and lane technology have sent scores souring, preventing the best bowlers from rising above the mediocre ones.

Proof of this is the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Pearl Bowling Center in Paramaque City, where three players scored perfect games and the top all-events qualifiers averaged close to 230.

Indonesia's Ryan Lahsang, the men's singles champion, averaged 228 in topping the 21-game all-events total, which served as the elimination for the 16-man masters competition. And Mana Cecilia Yap, who topped the women's singles for the first of the Philippines' four gold medals, did even better. She scored a 300 en route to an average of 229

A perfect game, which consists of 12 consecutive strikes, has become so common in competition here and abroad (a local youngster recently bowled consecutive 300s) that they're now talking of a perfect three-game series of 900 (36 consecutive strikes) as the new benchmark for perfec-

tion in the game.

Both enshrined in the International Bowling Hall of Fame, Nepomuceno and Coo, without question, are the greatest Filmino bowlers ever. Nepomuceno won the World Cup four times in three different decades while Coo won both the World Cup and the world FIQ championship, the Olympiad of bowling.

They have seen better days as bowlers and they have, ironically, gone into business selling the high-tech equipment that they now lament have made great bowlers out of mediocre ones. Nepomuceno manages the 16 high-end bowling centers that bears his name while Coo is the loca, distributor of the Brunswick bowling balls

In the days when Nepomuceno and Cooforded it over the local and international scene, they were averaging closer to 200 and were winning big events.

The big difference, according to Nepomuceno, is technology on the balls and the lanes. Where before the top bowlers used rubber and plastic balis, they became obsolete with the advent of arethane balls.

"Now, they're using urethane only as spare bails," said Nepontuceno, who watched the SEA Games, competition for seven straight days.

Coo laments that technology has blurred the distinction between the great bowlers and the ordinary ones, and they all bowl on synthetic lanes because wooden boards are now obsolete

"The balls have taken the skill out of the game," Goo said. "Even average players can score well. These days, you no longer have to hit a target. You only have to release the ball on an area in the lane and the ball will take care of the rest."

"Now you don't have to have great skills to score well. You only have to have the right equipment," said Coo, also at the sidelines of the SEA Games.

Coo proposes to limit the number of balls that players can use in a tournament so players with great skills can rise above the rest of the pack. International rules, inciuding those used in the SEA Games, require the bowlers to register six balls after the official practice sessions and they can use all six in competition.

But Manuel Sengson, assistant coach of the Philippine team and tournament manager of the SEA Games, disagreed with the notion that technology has taken the skill out of the game.

Better equipment may help a little, he said, but that's not all that it takes to make a good bowler, he said

"In the end, it's still the Indian, not the arrow," Sengson said, mouthing an oft quoted argument in the debate of skill versus rechnology in sports.



COO: Even average players can score well

Fernandez next Patafa chief, says Go

CONTROVERSIAL PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok does not plan to keep his post forever.

NEPOMUCENO: Urethane the culprit

In fact, he aiready has a succesfor in mind Go yesterday told the INQUINER that Bureau of Immigration Com-

rently the Patafa chair, "is the best man" for the job and will occupy the post "in due time." "I will groom him (Fernandez) to lete take over," Go said over the phone.

"He seems to be the best man for the

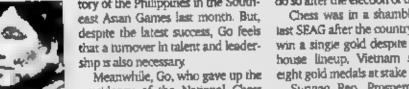
missioner Alpio Fernandez, concur-



PICHAY

job and he has a heart for the ath-

The Patafa contributed nine gold medals to the runaway overall vic-



presidency of the National Chess Rederation of the Philippines, said he will endorse a successor after the election of the members of the board two weeks from now.

"The next president should have a genuine concern for the sport," Go said. "I don't want to make any endorsements at this time. I promise to no, contributor

tory of the Philippures in the South- do so after the election of directors." Chess was in a shambles in the last SEAG after the country failed to win a single gold despite a powerhouse lineup. Vietnam swept all

> Sungao Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay is reportedly interested in running for the NCFP presidency and has made a grand entrance into the scene by bankrolling a recent P500,000 tournament and funding the trip of a 15-man team to Singapore last week. Marlon Bernardi-

RACE 1-(Pentalecta/Trifecta-Stratosphere Shutler



chira Jaw Breaker 4 Buinsh Dream 5 Race 2—(Quartet/Trifecta)—C Tonet 3. Hoy Sobra Na 6. Detective Daryll Paige 7 Twipgy's

Race 3—(Pentalecta/Trifecta)—Clear Stone 3
Pertect Harry 5, Sweet Alyssa 4, La Mirage

11 Kangatan 5 Race 4—(Quartet/Trifecta)—Quick Pick 4. Ocean Dignity 3. Mandalay Bay 5. Royal Bet 6 Race 5—(Pentatecta/Tritecta)—Eskapo 7 Quick

Play 2. Twelve Or Never 1, Bull Knight 9. Race 6-(Quartet/Trifecta)-Movahead 2, Nice Legs/Coromell 3. Bul. Rider 5. Sharon's

Race 7—(Super Stx/Trifecta)—Walup Forever 12 Juan to's Dream 2. Uncle 1 Take A Strike 3 Mika's Pride 6 Scarler Beauty 10

Race 8—(Quartet/Trifecta)—Guided Missile 6. Mary Jane Bomb 5, Bomb Shell 7 Smart Race 9—(Super Six/Quartet/Trifecta)—Dance

Till Dawn 7 Courage Heart 12 Beautifu, Task B. Alm And Fire 3. Besame Mucho 10. Termi-

SPORTSWATCH

Aguillar tops 2nd RVA 9-ball tourney

RICHARD "GOLDEN BOY" AGUILLAR DEFEATED ROMEO "OPAO" Timcang, 9-7, in their championship showdown to rule the 2nd RVA 9-Ball Billiards Tournament at the JT Dizon Billiard Half on Gen. Malvar Street, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, recently. Aquillar pocketed the top purse P10,000 in the tournament organized by Ramon "Maestro Monching" Mistica and supported by the billiards venue, Capita. Pawnshop, Lhearner Jeweiry Shop, Joe Repair Shop & Jeweiry, Jazz Ques and Joey's Fastfood. Agu Jar downed Jesus Dacoro (7-8), Israel "Amay" Rota (7-6) Tony Bautista (7-6), Henry Marasigan (7-5) and Danny "Joy" Trazona (7-4), to set up the clash with Timcang, who took home the runner-up prize of P5,000. Marion Barnardine, contributor

Checkmate classes listing opens

REGISTRATION FOR THE FIRST SERIES OF MILO CHECKMATE SATURday-and-Sunday-only chess classes for the year has started at the MCC office at the fourth floor of J&F Divino Building, Aurora Boulevard (near LRT 2 Anonas Station) in Quezon City. The clinics will start on Jan. 14 at the Badminton gymnasium, Rizai Memorial Sports Complex in Viso Cruz, Manier (3 a.m.-12 noon) and at J&F Divino Building (9 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Pre-clinic lessons will be conducted for those who will enroll this Satunday. Open to players five to 18 years old, the courses offered are preparatory level, beginners, intermediate and advance. The teaching staff, headed by WNM Mila Emperado, are composed of National Masters Leo Carlos, Ronald Liavanes and Randy Segarra. For inquiries, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560, 0916-8521069 or 0922-5397392. Meanwhile, the MCC 2000-below Datawahan event starts on Jen. 14-15

On-Line Care chess finals on Jan. 7-8

THE GRAND FINALS OF THE ON-LINE CARE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE Chess Championship finally comes off the wraps on Jan. 7-8 at the Pearl Place Mail on Gulrino Avenue in Tembo, Parañaque City. The top 12 players from each of the two categories in the semifinars will see action in the twoday competition organized by the Chessmates Executive Chess Circle. Comprising the top 12 in Group A are Fide Master Rico Salimbagat, Ed Sumergido, National master Randy Segarra, NM Dante Zuñiga, NM Robert Arellano, Clement Valledeor, Noel Garcia, Arnel Aton, Dr. Jenny Mayor Willie Abalos, NM Efren Bagamasbad and Dennis San Juan. The qualifiera from Group Blans Adler Enriquez, Ed Tungula, Leonolo Maulion, Gary Baltar, Xavier Busig, Verth Alors, Jesurie Calable, Rolando Gangozo, Francis Geriane, Carlo de Leon, Lourage: Hernandez and Orlando Pascual. The roundrobin tournament will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Five rounds will be played on the first day and ski on Sunday.

Three special derbies set at Roligon

THREE SPECIAL COCKFESTS ARE SLATED AT ROUGON MEGA COCKPIT for the month of January Kicking off this Saturday is the Cash Premyo 3-Cock Derby with P250.000 at stake. Entry see is P4,400 in the event hosted by Rollgon employees. The Kayang-Kaya 4-Cock Derby follows on Jan. 14 with a guaranteed cash pot of P400,000 awaiting the winners. Entry fee is P6,500. Roligon's 16th Anniversary 6-Cock Derby unfolds on Jan. 31 and will continue on Feb. 2, 4, 7 and 9 with P4 million in cash prizes and brand Toyota innova for the fastest win champion at stake. Entry fee is P11,000 For reservation of cockhouses, call 851-2275 833-1638 or 852-9612

Briones wins P1.5M, Innova in 6-cocker

TABLOID EXECUTIVE REY BRIONES WAS THE SURPRISE DOUBLE CHAM-PION in Makati Collseum's "Pamaskong Salpulan" 6-cock derby last week, a feet worth P1.5 million and a brand new Toyota innove, Briones' Spartan's Fire and Spertan's Slood both talled 5.5 points to best a field of 199 entries. It was an unexpected win for Briones' longshot bets, and a heart-breaking setback for four cockers who all fost their championship fights: Boy de Roca (Jojit II), Emil Chus (Concrete Breaker). Michael Monilles (Kristine) and promoter Lito Drillaza (Pliak). Following the derby's impressive turnout, the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. will hold another big cockest in April with two brand new cars at stake. Meanwhile, fined up at Makati Collseum on Monday. te the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby More than 65 fights are on tap in the derby. For loculries, call 696-3545 or

70 fights at San Juan Collseum today

BIGTIME COCKFIGHTING RESUMES AT THE SAN JUAN COLISEUM TOday as the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) holds a 5-cock derby starting at 5 p.m. with more than 70 fights on tap and Segupage Complexor 3000 as aponsor. Seeing action are Gerry Ramos, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Tony Lasalu, Patrick Antonio, Boy de Roca, Representatives Butch Pichay, Jing Paras and Rudy Albano, Crls Mida, Jun Topacio. Mayor Dennis Pineda, Mayor Dunca, Jingco Brothers, Jet Fernando, Pepilo Ngo, Rey Briones, Boy Reyo, Bebot Roxas, Dicky Llm, Matt Brianga, arriong others. GCAP will hold eight circuit derbies this year to determine the 2006 GCAP Cocker of the Year. Also lined up is the popular Big Event. derby. For inquiries, cell 722-7366 or 725-5369



Members and officials of the Mirlam College elementary squad show their trophy and medals after putting away the championship anew in the Women's Basketball League organized by Nic Jorge's Milo-BEST Center and backed by Milo. Miriam College downed Community of Learners, 44-21, in the finals. Poyeda Learning Centre finished third followed by Assumption College.



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Please watch Dr. Pineda in a live interview with Veronica Baluyot on her morning show at 7:30 a.m. on January 5, 2006 on PTV4.

Bill Shaw golf stakes P10M

A PRIZE PACKAGE WORTH ABOUT P10 MILbon plus an Audi A4 2,0, a Mercedez Benz and a Toyota Portuner are at stake in the 17th annual Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic slated Jan. 27-28 at the Wack Wack Gotf and Country Club.

The Audi, Benz and Fortuner will be the main hole-in-one prizes during the two-day event to be played at the fubled East and West courses of the Mandaluyong club.

The board of directors of Wack Wack and the sports and games committee chaired by director Pablo Soon are putting the finishes to the event held in honor of club founder William J. Shaw.

Soon said all 250 team slots are expected to be filled up by the time registration ends on Jan. 22. The format will be scrambled on the East course and aggregate on the West course.

Flights can play on Friday morning and Saturday afternoon, or Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. It will be a shotgun start at 6 a.m. and 12 noon on both playing days at both courses.

The entry fee of P7,000 per team will be given back to participants in the form of premium giveaway items. It also entitles teams a practice round in each course on any of the following days, Jan. 10, 11, 12, 13 and 24.

Poker King Challenge resumes

Challenge, a series of non-wager poker tournaments, is set Jan. 7 at Casino Pilipuno at Grand Boulevard Hotel on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

Poker Club of the Philippines president Ray "Butch" Gambos said prizes with a cash value of about P60,000 await the leg champion, in addition to prophies and gift items from sponsors.

Gambon said that the top three leg winners of the sixth and final leg will join other previous leg winners in the Grand Finals slated Jan. 21 at Cati-

THE 6TH LEG OF THE ONGOING POKER KING no Pilipino Tagayun; The champions of the previous legs include Mon Gelvezon, Perry Calalang, Nicolo Palo, Jessie Dy and Jason Lim.

The Poker King Challenge is sponsored by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), Jack Daniels, Miller Gentane Draft Beer, Bicyde Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyant Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, and MyReviewerOnline, the internet-knowledge builder, and conducted by the PCP For inquiries, call the Secretariat at 817-9092 or visit www.PokerClubofihe Philippmes.com.

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er ano

By the INQUIRER Entertainment staff

TO PREPARE FOR HIS ROLE as a psychopath in "Kutob," Marvin Agustin made a list of all the disappointments he had experienced in life and tried to recall all his pain

"Imagine someone who has been angry since he was a child, someone with many unresolved issues That's Limuel," Marvin told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent visit to the Inquirer office

The actor said his role in "Kutob" is the most difficult he has done so far, partly because he firmed it while doing ABS-CBN's telesine "Maging Akin Mult," where he plays a priest, Christopher Santos

"The shooting schedules of the two movies overlapped. There was a day when I 'kılled' someone in the morning and 'baptized' someone at n.ght," Marvin said. "I asked my directors for a few hours of rest in between

Jose Javier Reyes directs "Kutob," an offic.al entry to this year's Metro Manila Pilm Festival. "Maging Akin Muli," directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, was produced by Jesait Communications and aired on ABS-CBN on Dec. 18

Marvin said that playing Limitel also meant going back to boxing and swimming to shed some weight. He added that a course on personality development with filmmaker Freddie Santos, which he at tended before accepting the role was put to good use

"It he ped a lot in terms of technique [Direk Freddie] also taught me useful physical exercises and how to use music to motivate me," Marvin pointed out. "I have in my iPod songs just for Limuel and for Christopher Santos ("Maging Akin Muli") This is so I won't get confused

For Limuel, Marvin said he listened to rock and alternative music, while for Christopher, to inspirational songs mostly produced by Jesuit Commanications.

In this interview, Marvin shares with IN-Quirer Enterta.nment his plans for his acting career, for his four-month-old twin sons Santiago and Sebastian, and for his father, who is still in prison.

Direk Joey said the perfect Christmas gift for him is, you winning an acting award for his movie. Do you stand a

I pray that he gets his Christmas gift. The movie was offered to me at a time when I was ready to take on any role. Before that, for a little while, I had lost my passion for acting. When I enrolled in that class with

Direk Freddie, my excitement came back. I had to go back to my first love -acting.

Apart from that class and the music in your iPod, how else did you go about preparing for the two extremely opposite roles?

I read in the INQUIRER that Meryl Streep always looks for someone to unitate—mannerisms, facial expressions .. For Limuel, I couldn't think of anyone to copy. Ang kabaliwan ng tao hindi naman laging pinakikita. What I did was, I wrote down on a piece of paper all my bad experiences. Kapag nawawala na aka sa character, I sit down for a few minutes and read the list.

TAKE FIVE

What to you would be the perfect gift at this point?

Personally and professionally, 1 can't ask for anything more (right now). I got "Kutob," "Maging Akın Muli" and the twins. If you

really want something and pray for it, it means you're prepared to get it-and it will be given to you

How are the twins?

Santiago is older and is always quiet. Sebastian is always playful. He smiles at ev-

Would you allow them to join show biz in the future?

When they finish their studies. [School] is something I miss. That's why I always enroll in short courses

Has fatherhood changed you?

Nagkaroon ng clear direction ang buhay ko. I used to spend all my free time with my barkada. Now, I spend it with the kids, playing with them, sleeping beside them

How did you prepare for fatherhood?

I felt scared and depressed I asked friends for advice They told me, There are no books on fatherhood. It just happens. All you can do is embrace the situation." (But) I guess after all that my family has been through, kakayanın ko na. My father went to prison when I was 16. At an early age, I was [the breadwinner].

Isn't your father getting parole this year? What are your plans for his return?

There is a bigger chance (of that happening] this year I plan to get a bigger place, so we could all be together Right now, I live by myself in a condo unit. Before the twins came, he said he wanted to stay in the province to rest. Now, he says he wants to take care of them. I guess he wants to make up for lost time. He's been away for 10

How's Tetet [Dy, mother of the twins]? How did you meet?

She's a good friend from way back. My relationship with her is actually the most beautiful I've had. We have no plans of getting married yet I'm 26; she's 32. She runs

So is it serious acting from now

I'll continue making films that will make my children proud of me. I will also act in and produce a digital film early next year. I'm just waiting

for the second draft of the script by Adolf who Alix. will also di rect it. The title is, "Donsol." By the way, I'm also opening a restaurant

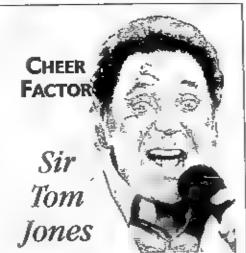
at the Edsa Shangri La, Japanese restaurant called Samo

How about a reunion movie with [former screen Jolina partner] Magdangal?

I'm ready anytime.

How do you feel when you watch your old movies with Johna?

Nakakatawa ang itnoon nimph noon (laughs). At that time, feeling ko, poging-pogi ako. I'd like people to see how we are now.



LONDON-WHAT'S NEW, PUSSYCAT? Sir Tom Jones!

Jones, 65, the big voiced singer from Wales, was among the new knights of the realm in the New Year list of honors announced on New Year's Eve. He joins a group of pop-rock knights including Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Mick Jagger, Sir Elton John and Sur George Martin, The Beatles producer.

"He will be absolutely over the moon," said Jones' cousin Dorothy Woodward of Caerphilly in south Wales.

Thomas Jones Woodward, born in Pontypridd, began his singing career at age 3. His string of hits started with "It's Not Unusual" in 1963. Other hits included "What's New Pussycat" and "Kiss." AP



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BY JESS ABRERA

BY PM JUNIOR

FOXTROT



I HAVE TO HELP 12 LITTLE OLD LADIES CROSS THE STREET IN UNDER A MINUTE! IT CAN'T BE DONE!



I DON'T THINK MAYBE YOU'RE SUPPOSED THAT'S TO BEAT AND THE ROB THEM POST. TROCK

BY BILL AMEND A LIPIN

MARAMI KAYANG NAGPA PUTOK ? PUTOL NA ANG AND BANG NAKA GAWIAN NG MGA MGA KAMAY PINOY PAGSAPIT AT DALIRI, E NG BAGONG TAON ! LANG E. DI MAGPA PUTOK



PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY PRYING INTO MY PRIVATE LIFE. Q ø

BY TOM ARMSTRONG PUGAD BABOY

KAPITBAHAY NATIN KADA BUMAN E MAKIKITA MONG PINE PEDICURE NI DEBBIE SI DABUL 94 LIARDIN NILA

I DON'T

THINK II CAN

HIBERNATE, EARL

SAMANTALANG IKAW .. NI LINDI AKO MAKA TIKIM NG MASAHE SA YO PAG UMUUMI AKONS PAGOD SA TRABAHO

YON LANS PALA 5. SIGE, MAG-RELAX KA D'YAN AT LALAGYAN KITA NG PIPINO SA MATA . MALA NAMAN TAYONS PIPINO SA REF A

BABARTEIN KITO NOVE MALANG GLAB PORA BUKAS E PARA KA NA RING MAY PIPINO

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

BABY BLUES



YOUR BLING " THAT'S MY SHOWS THAT BLING. YOU LAVE IT SHOWS ילני שסטד I TANT HAVE TUPE.



YOU SHOULD Y THE COME UP HOME SAID NITH MY OWN PETONPERS YOU CAN THANKS TALF LIFE 50 CENT but you're STILL THE SIZE OF A NICKEL

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

WHATS THE MATTER NOW, MOOCH!?!



MY JAMMIES ARE TOO SHMALL

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

You've Been IN THAT BOX FOR DAYS! AtoMo! THINK OF Deep thoughts AND LET THE BOX SPIT 400 00+

COME ON ARE YOU REALLY INCAPABLE OF DOOP HOUGHT? DO YOU WANT to







DIVINE COMEDY

MIKROKOSMOS

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



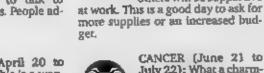
HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY. You have a scientific mind and a clever, structured way of looking at things. You're a natural problem-solver. You're organized, and you like schedules. Many of you become remarkable collectors. In the year ahead, you can build or construct something important and valuable. Don't be afraid to work hard. Your rewards will come scon! Birthdate of: Louis Braille, inventor; Don Shula, football coach; Julia Ormond, actress.

cellent day to talk to bosses, VIPs and parents. People ad-

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a marvelous day to be noticed



GEMINI (May 21 to

June 20). Someone

might be very generous to you today Certainly, others will be supportive

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can be very

productive at work today, primarily because you're happy and in a good mood. This is an excellent day for real estate deals. It's also a good day to work around the home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the perfect time to be on vacation. It's also a great day for the creative arts. Enjoy working with children. Saucy flurrations will please you!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct.

22): This is an extremely good day to shop for

or buy

icems

things for family mem-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a great

day for marketing, sales,

teaching, writing and all forms of communica-

tion. Your enthusiasm

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22

to Dec. 21): This is a

marvelous day for busi-

ness and commerce. It's

also a good day to go

BAPTRIP YUNG MGA NAG-TATAPON NG BASURA HABANG UMAANDAR SA HIGHWAY ..

. PINAPA PANGIT NILA YUNG MGA LANDSCAPE SA TABI NG KALEADA BY JOM KE TEJIDO

CONGA. KAYA AKO, HIHINTAYIN FONG MAKA-PARADA TAYO BAGO KO IKALAT ANG MGA TO

citingf

mire you today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to make travel plans. It's also an excellent day for publishing, the media and educational matters. New ideas are ex-



CANCER (June 2) to July 22): What a charming, social day! You feel upheat, happy and cre-ative! This is a wonderful day to work with children. (It's also a great day to flirt.) Enjoy yourself.



home

nancial benefit today.

bers, or to make real estate deals.

Something to do with your domes-

tic, private world can receive a fi-

will sell your ideas. It's also a good day to talk to brothers and sisters.

DAS PUT MOM ON THE OTHER PHONE THERES SOMETH "NO IMPORTANT I WANT TO TELL YOU!!







DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS "1 Class struggie? 5 Makes a move

- B Sottomiesa pit 14 Wield the scepter 15 Vamoosel
- 16 Statom Incline 17 Mineral supplement 18 Spinneker, e.g.
- 19 Roman torum 20 Soundly
- trounce 23 Wear and tear 24 Hound sound 25 From one side to the other
- 29 Fair game 21 Big place in California? 34 Sharp
- decreases 35 Membershlo payments Katanina'
- 37 Regroup after a TRY 40 Majors and
- CHIVET 41 Part of CPU 42 Planet's path #3 urban RRs 44 Thom site

8 Hub the wrong

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30 What's left

31 Uppity lolks

condition

33 Swimmers

floate

35 Sand ridge

36 Bushy 'do

38 Expenditure

39 Adress Sophia

32 Out of

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53 Small quaff 54 Missile garage? 55 Fail to mention shopping. Almost all fi-nancial transactions favor you now. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Enjoy the company of others to-Schmooze with your pals. Group activities, conferences, meetings and even gossipy conversations over the back fence will be enjoy-



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is # marvelously day for your Join group activities. Talk to others. People are eager to hear

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BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Nasty view of 'human' nature

A COUPLE OF TV SEASONS AGO, A LOCAL "reality" show shocked viewers by featuring combative relatives, lovers or neighbors who screamed invectives at each other and nearly came to blows

We pointed out at the time that the "honest" and "reality-based" show was a take-off on similarly cheap and in-your-face programs on US TV, like "The Jerry Springer show." Those shows were popular with C-D viewers because they showed people at their worst, thus electing the basest reactions from dimwit viewers

Thank goodness, the local spin-off finally faded away, after being severely criticized by viewers

Well, the local show's "inspiration," "The Jerry Springer Show," is showing on cable TV, on the new second avenue channel (on SkyCable, it's Channel 53) So, interested TV buffs can check it out to get a better handle on the "appeal" of "confrontational" rele-

The al.br.s, such shows are instructive because they depict "life" as it really is, so the problem brought up-and their solutions-can teach viewers how to resolve similar conflicts in their own lives.

Truth is, however, most nasty conflicts on Springer's show never get resolved, because the program is more interested in nastiness for nastiness' sake

Thus, it features the most far-out and exotic confrontations, like a pair of male twins sharing the same woman, or two hookers fighting tooth and nail over their oily pump

Most of the time, the emotional and physical confrontations get to be so rough that "bouncers" have to step in to prevent the combatants from inflicting serious injury on each other.

As they lunge at each other, the members of the show's studio audience behave like they were at the Coliseum in Rome during Nero's time, urging gladiators to kill one an-

What "lessons" can be learned from such an obviously exploitative and demeaning display of "human nature"? No, this is more ake man's animal nature come to the fore, and the real point isn't psychological insight, but invective, haired and controversy.

True, quite a lot of the verbal insults on Springer's program are bleeped, so viewers' sensibilities are spared. But much of the visual violence isn't edited out, so the show's nasty view of "human" nature still communicates, and does its worst in assaulting viewers' sensibilities.

'Blue Moon'

IN the Metro filmfest entry, "Blue Moon," 83-year-old Manuel Pineda (Eddie Garcia) learns that he has only six months to live, so he embarks on a search for his truest love, who has been missing for decades.

His search takes him all over the country In the process, he bonds with his son Rod (Christopher de Leon) and grandson Kyte (Dennis Trillo), and old wounds are healed

Other major roles are played by Boots Anson-Roa, Jennylyn Mercado, Pauleen Luna and Mark Herras.

"InfoMedico"

Hosted by noted cardiologist Dr Esperanza Cabral, "InfoMedico" is aired M.F. 12-12.30 p.m. over RPN 9's "Arangkada Banta." Now

on its second season, the informative program emphasizes treatment prevention and basic information about a wide range of illnesses

Viewers appreciate "InfoMedico" because it brings medical and technical terms down to laymen's level. Digital images and colorful graphics make each topic even more anderstandable and in-

volving On its second season, the show will tackie timely medical issues, like the rising threat of diabetes, hypertension and stroke and the .coming bird flu epidemic

'Rumor Has It'

JENNIFER Aniston and Kevin Costner co-star in "Rumor Has It." She's afraid getting married—until grandmother

(Shiriey MacLaine) reveals that, 30 years ago, her mother ran off with a mysterious young man before her weddong. Aniston then goes to San Francisco to look up her mother's classmate (Costner), who is now an internet bilhonna.re—and learns valuable life lessons from him



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre







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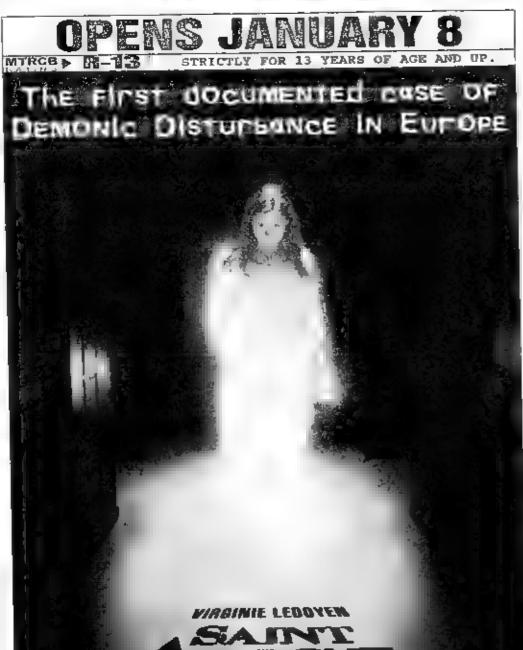
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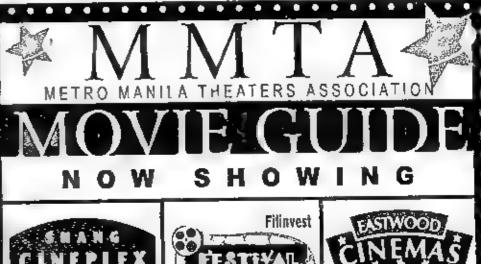


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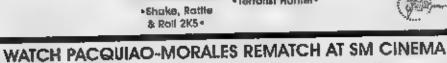
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ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, **JANUARY 4, 2006**

ROUNDUP

Best-selling albums race

NEW YORK-MARIAH CAREY HAS INCHED past 50 Cent in the race for the year's bestselling album.

Carey's "The Emancipation of Mimi" soid 290,000 copies in the week ending Dec. 25, according to figures released by Nielsen SoundScan. That brings her tota, to 4.86 milhon copies on the year, compared to 4.83 million for 50's "The Massacre," which came out

"Mimi." released in April, received eight Grammy nominations, tying for the most with



MARIAH Carey

GLOSE PLATINUM P249 / P299

Breakthrough," which sold 727,000 copies in its first week. Jamie Foxx's "Unpredictable," also just released, sold 598,000 copies.

Kanye West and John Legend. The top selling album last week, according to SoundScan, was Mary J. Blige's "The

Best film NFW YORK-"Crash," the ensemble drama about the prejudices of intersecting characters, has been named top film of the year by the African-American Film Critics Associa-



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TERRENCE Howard

Besides "Crash," the AAFCA chose nine others as the top movies: "The Constant Gardener," "Good Night, Good Luck," "Brokeback Mountain." "Syri-*Walk ana," the "Hustle Line," Flow," "Capote," "Batman Begins" and "North Country."

Terrence Howard was named Best Actor for "Hustle & Flow." Felicity Huff man was cited as Best Actress "Transamerica."

"Our organization pays special attennon to work by artists of African descent, [but] Ms Huffman is undentably amazing in this role, AAFCA president Gil Robertson IV said in a statement



BONO

U2 tensions

LONDON-Rock star Bono said Saturday that his commitment campa gning poverty caused tensions with in his band, U2.

The musician said that, at one point, he feared he would be thrown out of the band "They (the band)

are hugely support ive of the work 1 do, but the first ob of a rock 'n roll band is not to be dull " Bono rold British Broadcasting Corp. rad o "So we have to be very careful about just letting me go too

Brando sued

ANGELES-LOS Christian Brando, son of the late actor Marion Brando, has been sued by his exwife and stepdaughter alleging he often abused and threatened to kill them. their lawyer said. Brando and his ex-

wife met in 1990, the same year he preaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter for the shooting death of his half sister's boyfriend Dag Drollet. Brando served five years in prison.

The lawsuit aleges that Brando "repeatedly struck Ms Brando with his hands and fists and threatened to kill her in the presence of her daughter."

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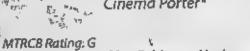
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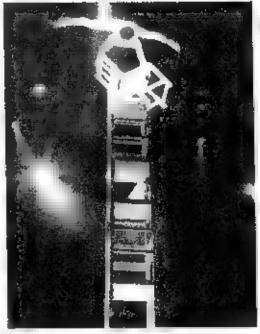
ENTERTAINMENT

'Hua Mulan' is all about illusion



... but obviously also about skill, focus and years and years of disciplined practice

4: Shake, Rattle Longon Little 2 : Rental a Hell 2: Estanou vontanto il Beservation S: Ake, 3: Terrorists Hunter 4: Shake, Battle 5 & Rell Everyday Family Day at StarMalls! Name amphilippi mita my as LINE BNINES personn every Phartologis & Fedays at Metropolis Abburg Listm & Rolly Genomes, Giared Food at Caba Little BAR Starrage Edica 2nd Level



By Pocholo Concepcion Contributor

THE HEBEI ACROBATIC CIRCUS TROUPE OF China could teach Filipinos a thing or two about using tricks purely for entertainment purposes.

In the "Hua Mulan Fantasy Magical Journey" series at the Al.w Theater (Star City, CCP Comp.ex, Dec. 23 to Jan. 2) the acrobats

served up a refreshing take on the various skills required of stunts and tricks of illus on.

The title was immaterial to the 90-minute show. The story of Mulan, a Chinese maiden who goes to war disgrased as a man, hardly made an impact after a breathtaking par-juggung act

Without the Maan dance sequences, in fact, the acrobats could have happily shocked and awed the audience some more.

It was no longer a question of what is more novel or daring; it all boiled down to the audience liking what it

Sustained

Seed Alus Best

The suspense over whether a juggler could avoid breaking his head every time he catches a heavy jar with his neck was sustained till, the end of the

The women who gracefully twirled and caught objects with strings elected loud applause—even after one of the objects fell out of reach.

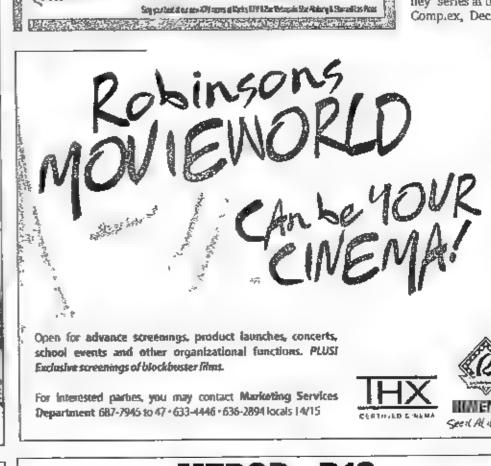
A gymnast who per formed stunts over severa, chairs piled high received even louder applause.

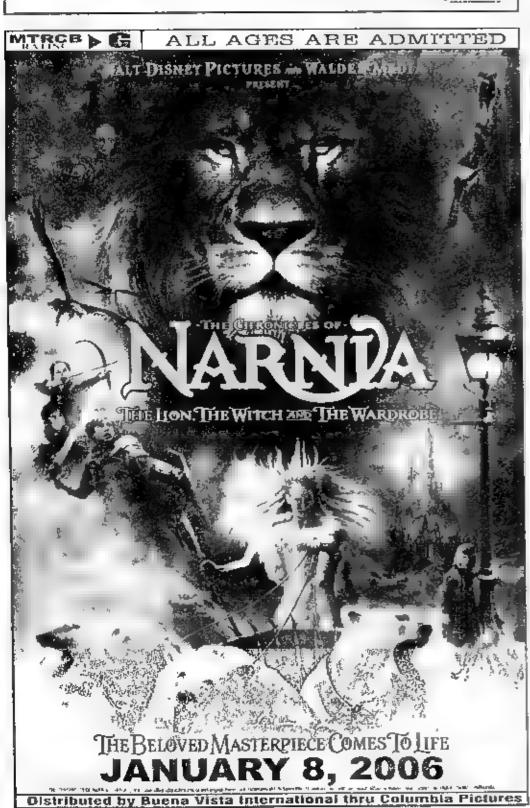
The chmacuc acts, the producer plained, were "all about illusion"-mutisating a man with a giant chainsaw; moving the chopped head of a girl to the other end of the stage; fire rods piercing the body of another gui

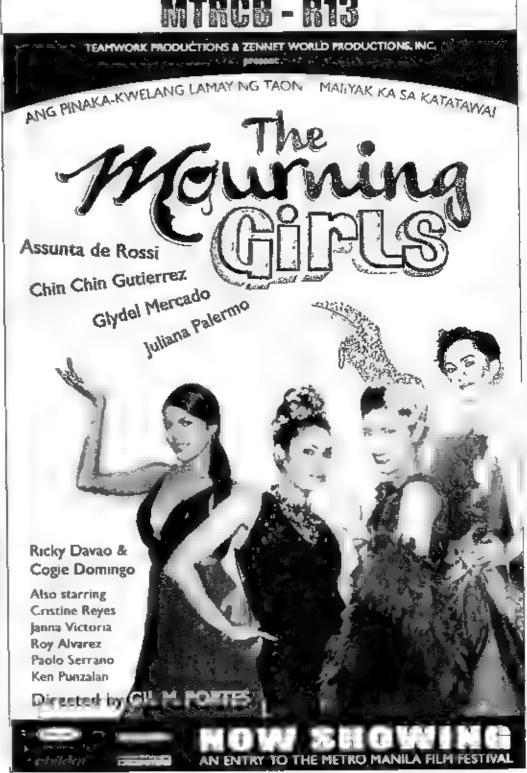
At the end of each act, members of the audience gasp and look around as if to ask, "How the heck did that happen?"-before

breaking into cheers. The question that ingers is not why and now children get entranced by magic. Rather, it is why some adults look beyond the entertainment value of ends and constantly attempt to pull a fast one over one another in real life.

"Hua Mutan" goes on extended run at the Ynanes Center in Airtipolo on Jan. 6, 7 and











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Computer Magazine in the Philippines



Peso continues to rally, closes at 52.66 to \$1

7-yr T-bond rate drops to 9%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF TREASURY SAID market concerns about the government's long-term fiscal prospects have a.ready dissipated, at least based on the banks' response to the assuance of the seven-year treasury bonds yesterday.

The bond rate fell below the 10-percent mark in yesterday's auction, shedding 150 basis points (1.5 percentage points) to 9 percent.

The seven-year bonds fetched 10.5 percent when they were auctioned on Nov. 15.

"The market has now taken a longterm view on the fiscal position of the government by making very aggressive bids for the seven-year bonds," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a press briefing after the auction.

Market players swamped the auction, submitting P12.08 billion worth of bids for the long-term government securities. The amount of bids was more than three times higher than the government's debt offering of only P4

Cruz noted that the yield of 9 percent was even lower than the 9 25 percent expected by the Treasury. The decline in the rate of the seven-year bonds is expected to influence market response to other treasury bill tenors in the coming auctions, he added

"Government efforts (to improve the fiscal standing) are paying off, and the market is rewarding the government for its fiscal discipline," Cruz said.

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

117.48 = 🛇

As of 5 p.m., Dec 30, 2005

GOLD: \$516.40-516.90 per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 3, 2006 STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

peso, low interest rates

Stocks rise 0.9% on strong

Stock Exchange Index gained 17 79 points,

close at 1,278.05 after slipping 2.81 points

days, and their interest is being fueled by

tal Securities (See related stories on this

the stronger peso and the declining Interest rates that are a plus for property companies," said Erwin Balita, analyst at AB Capi-

"Some investors are back from their holi-

or 0.9 percent, to 2,109.79 rebounding from a 4.04-point loss Monday. The broader

All Shares Index climbed 7 72 points to

STOCKS ROSE YESTERDAY,

aided by the stronger peso and declining domestic interest rates. The 30-company Philippine

\$2.66 =

7-YR T-BOND/ B3

Market bullish on gov't fiscal position, ratings upgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

WEDNESDAY.

JANUARY 4, 2006

THE PESO RALLIED FURTHER TO 52.57 TO A DOLLAR before closing at a new three-year high of 52.66 yesterday on rosy prospects for the Philippines this new year.

stopping the peso's ascent," said Equi- 17.5 centavos from the previous closing table PCI Bank chief currency dealer of 52.835. Trading volume stood at a

After breaking past the 53:\$1 barrier

"The market is euphoric. There is no on Monday, the peso gained another heavy \$513 million.

Ayes said the Christmas-related in-

flows from overseas Filipino workers were fizzling out, but market sentiment remained bullish on expectations of a much better government fiscal position this year, which could lead to a potential sovereign credit ratings upgrade.

The market also took position ahead of expected inflows from forthcoming initial public offerings by conglomerate cash cows Universal Robina Corp. of the Gokongwei group, and First Generation Holdings Corp. of the Lopezes.

WHAT'S INSIDE



and 'kuripot'

DA sees weak growth in '05 farm output /B10

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(BPI Gold Fund)

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According to the State of State of the State

Gainers outnumbered losers 49 to 18. with 42 issues unchanged. All sectoral indicators ended higher

Among stocks likely to benefit from lower rates and a stronger peso, Bank of the Philippine Islands rose 2 B percent to P55.50 and Ayala Land added one percent

First Philippine Holdings Corp. advanced 4.1 percent to P61 in anticipation of gains expected from the upcoming initial public offering of its power generation unit, First Gen.

Manila Water rose 3,2 percent to P6.40 after it implemented a water rate increase this month and won a one-year extension of its income-tax exemption.

BUSINESS

BOI grants perks to P4B worth of hydro power projects in South

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOUTHERN MINDANAO IS EXPECTED TO harness more power from the region's water resources as the Board of Investments approved the granting of perks to the Abottiz group's P4.03-billion electricity projects in Davao del Sur

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the project was among the batch of proposals approved for listing with the BOI last

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WHAT'S HOT IN 2006?

week under the agency's simplified registration procedure or one-day approval scheme.

Hernandez, who is also BOI's managing head, said Hedcor Sibulan Inc. would put up two independent mini-hydro power generation projects with installed capacities of 16 MW and 26 MW, respectively.

The proponent is an affiliate of Hydro Energy Development Corp. (Hedcor), which is said to be the country's pioneer in developing mini-hydro facilities or water-driven power plants with capacities of less than 50 MW.

Hedcor Sibulan's projects, which are located in Sta. Cruz town, are expected to create 40 new jobs and start commercial operations by January 2009

Hernandez said the hydro plants would tap the headwaters of the rivers Sibulan and Baroring and their tributaries.

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"The projects' output would be sold to Daveo Light & Power Co. and Visayas Electric Co.," he said.

Aboutiz Equity Ventures has interest in Dahight and Veco-which are the third and second largest power distributors after Manila Electric Co.—through its subsidiary Aboutiz Power.

Also, the projects were given pioneer status which qualifies them to six-year tax holidays, duty-free importation of capital equipment and other fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

Under the 2005 Investments Priorities Plan, power generation projects that use renewable energy are automatically qualified

The BOI also approved the granting of nonpioneer incentives to all-Filipino firm Fog Horn Inc.'s P404-million venture involving the construction of a tourist accommodation facility.

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50.7% of Del Monte

NutriAsia now controls

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NUTRIASIA PACIFIC Ltd., THE joint venture company of Joselito Campos Jr. and San Miguel Corp., acquired a total of 50 72 percent of pineapple products distributor Del Monte Pacific Ltd as of the

end of December 2005. PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Pinance Pte Ltd, the financial adviser of NutriAsia, said in a disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore that NutriAsia now had a total of 552.76 milnon shares or S0.7 percent of Del Monte as of Dec. 30

As of Dec. 2, NutriAsia had 49 39 percent of the potential issued capital of Del Monte.

NutriAsia was able to secure the acceptance of its offer to buy shares, representing 1.33 percent or another 14.52 million shares, by Del Monte shareholders, making its offer "unconditional." Sources said KPMG Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd., the financial adviser for Del Monte's independent directors, had yet to release its recommendation on the takeover offer lodged

NutriAsia earlier agreed to buy the 49 8 percent held by pineapple plantation landlord Martin Lorenzo in Del Monte for \$206.5 million. This triggered a mandatory offer for the rest of Del Monte shares. The whole deal is valued at a round \$415 million.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Globe, Smart get **3G** frequency assignments

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. AND GLOBE Telecom yesterday said they had secured their desired 3G frequency assignments.

The phone firms said this would help hasten their delivery of 3G services to the public.

This followed National Telecommunication Commission's granting of 3G licenses to Smart and Globe, as well as to Digital Telecommunications Philippines and Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise

3G or Third Generation technology and services would allow consumers to hear and see the party they are contacting and watch television shows while mobile, as well as download and listen to music

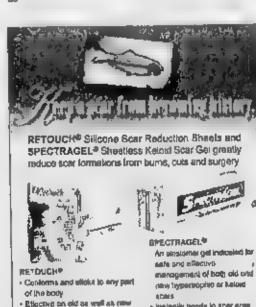
Roland Peña, Smart network division chief, said in a statement the company selected the 1920-1935MHz/2110-2125MHz frequency spectrum, which "has the least amount of interference and is located at the best position in the 3G frequency spectrum, allowing for the clear est possible over-the-air transmission."

He said Smart had started the deploymen of its nationwide 3G network, with a signifi cant number of 3G cellsites already being tested and utilized for demonstration to subscribers in key areas within Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

In a separate statement, Globe sentor vice president Rodolfo A. Salalima said the company also got the frequency spectra that it wanted.

"The frequency assigned to us would allow us to deliver superior quality 3G services," Salauma said

"Now that we have been given our desired 3G frequency, we can rapidly deploy our 3G service at the shortest possible time," he said "With 3G operations, we are now ready to provide the public state of the art technolo-Ronnel W. Domingo



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EXPORT and industry Bank inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Jan. 25, 8 a.m., at the Exportbank Plaza along Chino Roces Ave. Makati City Record date is Jan. 3

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Flue-Curing & Redrying Corp. will hold its annua stockholders' meeting on Feb. 6, 2 p.m., at the company's principal office at 802 A. Bonifacio St., Balintawak, Quezon City. Stockholders of record as of Dec. 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabania, PDI Research

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Castilaloy and 'kuripot'

THE ABOUTZES MAY LOOK AND SPEAK Castilian, but the Basque transplants have apparently adopted the Cebuano "kuripot" trait when it comes to paying themselves and their

Abottiz Equity Ventures CEO Jon Ramon Aboittz, COO Erramon Aboittz and three top AEV officers were estimated to have received a little over P29 million in 2005 salaries and bonuses combined, or about P5.8 million. Hizon law firm had facilitated. each on average, on the back of a P2.4-billion net income their stewardship turned in for shareholders of the holding company in 2004.

In contrast, Anscor CEO Andres Soriano III, his brother Eduardo and three other top officers of the Sonano holding company received on average of over P8 million each (or P40.47 million in all) in compensation, on the back of P505 million in 2004 profits.

The Aboutizes even looked twice more efficient in generating shareholder value, at half the cost of the executive package, compared to International Container Terminal Services Inc., whose CEO, Enrique Razon Jr., is another driven member, like Enrique "Endika" Aboitiz Jr., of the so called GMA Castilaloy

Razon and four top ICTSI executives were estimated to have received last year nearly P52 million in compensation, or about P10.4 million each, in return for generating P1 06 billion in 2004 profits.

Despite their efficiency, the Abostizes were still eclipsed last year by the Zobels of Ayala Corp., who turned in more bang for the executive buck. The top Ayaia executive corps may be twice bigger, numbering 10, and receive on the whole a far fatter package, about P121 58 mill.on (or P12.158 million each on average) in salaries and bonuses combined, but CEO Jaime Augusto and his brother Fernando in return chalked up more than P7 1 billion in profits for the conglomerate in 2004.

That means that for every peso received, the Zobel brothers-led executive team returned about P585 in profit, that's 585 times, as against the Abortizes' P415.

Bankers' PPP index

METROBANK, not Chinabank as we had reported Monday, still holds the record of paying top peso for their top executives.

Chinabank chair Gilbert Dee, president/CEO Peter Dee and three others on average receive about P12.7 million each (the total 2005 compensation package for the five was estimated at P63.35 million), not P15.8 million each as had been reported.

Metrobank, on the other hand, may have reported a lower P60.08-million package for its top executives, but only four, led by taipan/CEO George Ty, divvied the pre, getting an average of over P15 million each

Chinabank has proven to be a quiet moneymachine for the Dees and, now, taipan Henry Sy, but the latter's own Banco de Oro, it turns out, spins out more money for every peso paid

Per our PPP (profit per pay) index, BDO president Nestor Tan and five others, who received a total of P41.77 million last year on top of producing P2.0156 billion in net profit in 2004, led their affiliate with a P48 25 return for every P1 received.

Chinabank, in contrast, posted a lower PPP index of nearly 42.89.

Among the big boys, the team of Aurelia Montinola III at Bank of the Philippine Islands, which reported nearly twice as much profits than Metrobank in 2004, was easily

the most efficient money spinner. Generating P6.668 billion in profits as against their compensation package of P72 127 million, the Montinola team cranked out nearly P92.45 profit for every peso paid

(The 2004 BPI profits were actually generated under the stewardship of Xavier Loinaz.)

Heard through the grapevine

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez has denied the appeal of former Eastern Telecom CEO Salvador Hizon and his former law partner Lass Lokin Jr. to stop the filing of the estafa case filed against the two by their former law firm partners, now Iloulo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Angara chief of staff Demarce Raval.

The estafa complaint stemmed from Suplico and Raval adegedly not getting their P33.7 m thon share each, out of the P362 million in sequestered cash dividends for Marcos telecom crony Manuel Nieto, whose release the

7-yr T-bond rate drops to 9%

From page B1

He said the sharp decline in the seven-year T-bond rate indicated that market confidence brought about by the positive fiscal climate was not only short term

Last Monday, the market also responded well to the issuance of treasury bills, whose rates declined across the board, with the rate of the 91-day bills hitting 4,961 percent, the lowest since August 2002

Finance officials attributed the declining interest rates to the implementation of the government's fiscal reform agenda, seen to have significantly trimmed down the budget

deficit in 2005. The VAT Reform Law, Implemented on Nov, I and considered as the centerpiece of the Arroya administration's fiscal reform programs, was estimated to generate P81.4 billion in additional revenue yearly and boost efforts to achieve a zero-deficit goal by 2008

COCKTALES



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MOTORING

'Back to the future'

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

THE YEAR JUST PASSED HAS PROduced some eye-popping automotive designs and prototypes, as well as technologies that may make one oilstrapped individual ask "why didn't they think of that earlier, before Opec (Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries) started running our lives?"

Inquirer Motoring is fortunate to catch a glimpse of the near future in 2005, especially during the last quarter. Almost all of them are simply way ahead of their time (though some are already planned for commercial distribution in the next two or three years). Nevertheatheath by the current turbocharge unit.

The other side of Mitsubis. less, we just can't wait to lay our hands on these clean, sleek and shany babies.

Environment-friendly car

The Japanese kei-minicar is also known as the "T" and is targeted at potential owners looking for an environmentfriendly car of reasonable size. It has the rear midship layout, a first for Mitsubishi Motors. It is powered by a new 3-cylinder mtercooler turbocharged Miver engine that pumps out a 47kW (64ps) of power. Puel economy is more than 15 percent better than an equivalent model powered fuel type and transmission systems are

The other side of Mitsubishi Delica that we're not aware of, and hopefully the side that opens the right doors is the D:5 concept for the next generation Delica model. It uses the same electronically controlled four-wheel-drive system as the Outlander: a 2.4-liter Mivec engine, sports made, 6-speed (CVT).

If angels needed to drive a car, this is what they would choose, wings down: the Orochi Nude Top Roadster, a design proposal from Mitsuoka Motors Co. Ltd. The body dimensions are real, but since this is just a design proposal, the engine,

yet unknown (perhaps to be decided by a higher order?). With gull-wing doors that seem poised to fly to the heavens, the designers went as far as not to attach any side mirrors so as not to "spoil" the design. Or maybe they knew angels had eyes at the back of their heads.

Most economical

Another crowd drawer is a speed bike that will never lose its footing. Helmets, however, are still required, mind you.

Volkswagen's type-the Ecoracer-is a research vehicle attempting to make history as the most economical sports car of its time. To earn that, it would have to average 3.4 liters of fuel consumed for 100 km, and while at it attain a top speed of 230 kph. To help it along, the body is made of carbon fiber, and its centrally located engine weighs only 850 kg. It's planned to accelerate from 0 to 100 kph in 6.3 seconds. And no, it's not gasolinepowered. It would actually run on diesel, in a next-generation turbocharged diesel engine producing 100Kw of power.

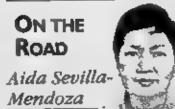
72 contenders for Car of the Year

FROM 58 TO 72 IS A BIG JUMP, but that is how many fourwheeled motor vehicles are in the running for the second Car of the Year Philippines (Cotyp) Award compared to the first time. Comcidentally, the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), the nonstock, nonprofit association that initiated the Cotyp in 2004, has grown in membership from 40 motoring oriented journalists representing a dozen media outfits to nearly 70. In the last quarter of 2005, membership was opened not only to those covering the motoring beat but also those from three dozen print, broadcast and cyber media organizations covering related areas of interest

The surge in the number of entries promises a bigger, more exciting contest for the 2005-06 Cotyp trophy. In a letter, Cagi/Cotyp president Manny de los Reyes, editor in chief of Speed Magazine and a feature writer of The Philippine Star's motoring section, informed car manufacturers that

the new Cagi board has drafted a new set of rules and criteria to avoid category overlaps. "More importantly," he wrote, "the categorization is now more price-sensitive to reflect the realities of the market."

The number of categories has been increased from 10 to 11 with the 11 best-in-class winners getting a shot at the top title. With eight cars vying for the Best Mini/Subcompact of the Year Award, another eight for the Best Compact Sedan, 11 for the Best Executive Sedan, five for the Best Luxury Sedan, three for the Best Ultra-Luxury Sedan, 11 for the Best Entry-Level Sport Utility Vehicle, seven for the Best Luxury SUV, three for the Best Ultra-Luxury SUV, five for the Best Entry-Level Multipurpose Vehicle (MPV instead of the Asian Utility Vehicle or AUV), seven for the Best Luxury MPV and four for the Best Pickup of the Year Award, Cago



members will be extra busy durmg the scheduled weekend test dates in January and February 2006 at the Forest Hills Golf Club complex in Antipolo, Rızal

Car models that did not win in their respective categories last year and have not undergone major changes are automatically disqualified. Last year's top picks and the Cotyp 2004-05 will be included so that they may defend their titles. Vehicles must have been made available on the market from Sept. 1, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2005 to qualify for entry.

Aside from the 11 major awards and the Cotyp Award, seven special awards will be given to the Safest Vehicle, Best Val-

Puel Efficiency, Best Marketing Campaign and Media Choice of the Year.

Cotyp tests consist of a quantitative phase and a qualitative phase. In the quanti, a control group made up of five drivers using precision instruments will evaluate zero to 100 kph acceleration, braking power, fuel efficiency and cabin noise. The quali tests will be conducted by Cago member-journalists who will rate each car on handling, design, safety, innovation, driving satisfaction/ride quality and value for money using a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 as the highest score.

As was done in the first Cotyp at the request of Automobile Association Philippines, the SGV accounting firm will tally the votes and the results will be kept strictly confidential until the gala awards night dinner in March. To

ne for Money, Best in Design, Best ensure impartiality and avoid a hard to find common ground in Technical Innovation, Best in conflict of interest, Cagi from the start has not accepted nor solicited the sponsorship of car manufacturers and dealers. This is an ethical policy that Cagi is determined to follow through the

New inroads

With Cotyp, Cagi will honor manufacturers that have made new inroads in the automotive field. Aside from striving to be a cumulative voice in improving quality and setting new benchmarks in design, innovation, safety and performance for the auto industry, Caga aims to improve the evaluative skills of motoring journalists by providing a venue to test-drive motor vehicles against quantitative and qualitative criteria.

Motor Trend magazine, which pioneered the Car of the Year concept 56 years ago in the United States, says it best "Car of the Year isn't a comparison test... it's

when you simply look at the hardware. So we don't Instead, we evaluate each contender against three criteria: Superiority/Engineering Excellence-design advancement, utilization of resources and safety are the key components of this criterion Significance—how well does the vehicle to the job its maker intended it to do? . . . Value-Each vehicle is compared with its rivals in its market segment. While a vehicle with a low sticker price might seem to have an advanrage, it may not be as good a val-

costs, and higher resale." TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A woman's favorite position is

ue as a more expensive vehicle

that offers higher performance

and build quality along with bet-

ter functionality, lower running

E-mail comments to asevil-

BMW ISeries

BMW's only one

By Charles E. Buban

DURING LAST MONTH'S press launch of Canyon Ranch (Century Communities Corp.'s premier development in Carmona, Cavite), guests were shuttled to the site aboard a fleet of 1-Series (seven 120) executives, to be exact), BMW Philippines' latest offering in the compact car market.

it was also this writer's chance to experience the fivedoor hatchback that BMW Philippines corporate communications and marketing director Lito German described as the first and only premium car in the ultra competitive compact car class.

The 1-Series is a blend of prestige and performance at a reasonably affordable entry price. By extending its model range BMW has reacted to the needs of a young, active and discerning generation of con-

sumers," German said. Here in the Philippines, the 1-Series is available in three four-cylinder, gasoline engine variants: 1.6 liter (generating 115 horsepower), 1.8 liter (129 hp), and 2.0 liter (150 hp). Only the 1.6 variants are mated to a five-speed manual gearbox with the rest fitted with a six-speed automatic driving on slippery surfaces. gearbox.

Rear-wheel driven

turers would make their hatchbacks front-wheel drive, BMW has decided to do something different: make the 1-Series rear-wheel drive

While most carmakers will choose a front-wheel drive package because it will cost (while some might further ar- million.

gue that it is also safer since front-wheel drive cars tend to have a much easier to control handling characteristics), BMW believed going for a rear-wheel drive will give the I-Series a well-balanced particularly weight distribution (50:50 in the 1-Series), a steering system free from drive train influence, and optimal traction under a full load

"It's no surprise that rearwheel drive is so successful in higher vehicle segments, in motor sports and now also in the compact class, where the 1-Series is making its mark as a car with the highest possible standards in dynamics, comfort and, last but not least, safety," German added

Setting new standards

Indeed, the 1-Series' safety features are setting new standards in the compact class. These include providing the car with six airbags (including side and curtain head airbags that are helpful duning side on collision) and a system that controls the chassis, suspension, steering brakes and even engine power to make them all work together in preventing the car from swerving out of control during abrupt evasive maneuvers or

Another unique feature is the 1-Series' run flat tires. Made exclusively for BMW 1-series, the But while most car manufac- run flat tires mounted on the car's 16-inch steel wheels will abow the driver to continue up to 150 km without any pressure in the tire.

As BMW's entry level model, the 1-Series will be priced starting at P1.595 million and will be available in 12 variants with them less to manufacture the 120t Tech going at P2.260

Real choices in a very real world

LET'S SUPPOSE THAT, LIKE MANY OUT there, you are a speed freak, but one who's addiction to velocity is so far along that even your home PC is an overclocked, water-cooled, bit munching behemoth. There is no lane in your life other than the one that says, "For overtaking

Maybe you're one of those who live to painstakingly beat time. You get your use from clocking faster and faster drive times from home to elsewhere-even to the neighborhood convenience store. Is everyone in character now? Alright then, spend the next five seconds thinking of an automobile that would be the single perfect transportation tool for such a compulsive human being

Philippine factor

You realize of course that whatever example of automotive exhibaration you had chosen, its ability to perform "as advertised" in a real world similation is senously in question, more so on typical Philippine roads. Yes, I can hear the whole lot of you complaining about only being given a few seconds to decide what car would be most apt.

Add this handicap to the notion of operating said vehicle in a local context and the results are predictably catastrophic. It is truly sad that this Philippine factor, one of shaky public works and infrastructure (with an even less stable political and economic clime), dooms the practical ownership of many truly remarkable automobiles.

Unfair as the questioning may have been, rest assured that there is a point to this entire

MY DRIFT Andre Palma

exercise. Dramatically and incorrectly, we used a sole deciding factor in choosing a vehicle

Surely there is nothing wrong with a fast car, but does every car you own have to be fast and obstinately so? What happens when we expand the "sole deciding factor" argument to those of a single make, of a certain nation or worse yet of a premium price point? Does a single product attribute, merit an absolute, gospel-like selling point, one that transcends practicality and common sense? The marketing stiffs at many vehicle manufacturers would like to have you think this is rightfully

What they'd really like to happen is for us to act like the speed compulsive that we roleplayed eartier. If we can already convince ourselves that we desperately want what they're selling, then the marketing man's job is done The transaction is closed, with your hardearned currency fueling the brand image that will lead many more consumers down the same path. We would practically be buying blind-single-minded and hopeless as those who do not bother to look at a car's entire package. In very real terms, they are trying to make us revert to base impulse when deciding

a purchase. When one starts to take notice of the spiels about "brand DNA" and is regaled to no end about decades of Motorsport success. you know the road to an unbiased choice is definitely aphill from that moment on

Finding the right vehicle

Beyond the shiny badges, metallic paint and their purported pedigrees, all automobiles must be judged as to how much of a fundamentally good car can be found in any given package. Does the vehicle fit your real needs and not the wishes that were brainwashed into you by the profound commercials or the "talk dirty to me" sales pitch?

Only the actual end-user would know if a 612 Scaglietti or a Kia Picanto would be the right vehicle for the "speed task" that we gave some thought to earlier. There is an empirical answer in there somewhere and the moment you free your mind from the millions of dollars that the manufacturers have spent in advertising, an answer starts to become agonizingly apparent.

The exercise of choice actually finds the buying public in a better position than the motoring journalist. Often times, trying to understand a complex, expensive and intricate product, like the automobile, makes one look like a nosey nitpicker quite a lot. The worst that could happen is to get labeled a nuisance customer and be asked, poritely, to take your business elsewhere. Try to write truthfully and critically about said cars and things get worse-one starts looking like a hack waiting

Talking with Takase

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE GOOD-LOOKING Kengo Takase joined the Mitsubishi Motors Co.? "It's because of the Galant," he said. "That

car changed my life." Takase was fresh out of college when he started job-hunting. Before embarking on his mission, he came across the Galant, then the newest "car on the block" and, immediately, he said he fell in love with it.

Armed with his diploma, Takase traveled from his birthplace of Okayama to Hiroshima, approximately a distance of 150 kilometers, to apply for a job. Mitsubishi has a plant in Hiroshima.

Some 24 years later, Takase, 50, is president and CEO of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines.

Now on his third year in that post, Takase, whose tummy-less, lean build would easily qualify him as a bantam weight boxer, said he finds himself facing "interesting challenges" amid the fast-changing landscape in the motoring industry.

"The automotive business here has changed rapidly over the years," said Takase, noting the slew of new vehicles rolling out of the assembly lines the past two years or so.

He said no vehicle company in the country would survive if it could not cope with the drastic, if not radical, transformation of the

vehicle market. The past year alone, Toyota stunned the



Al Mendoza

motoring world when it unleashed three vehicles that would soon prove to be all best-sellers: Fortuner, Hi-Lux and the locally assembled Innova.

Not to be outdone, the others followed suit, notably Nissan and Isuzu.

While Nissan made a killing with its X-Trail, refurbishing it with another equally smashing model the year past to the delight of Raymond Tribdino and Val de Leon, Isuzu would not be denied.

The Alterra was so stunningly state-ofthe art that the Isuzu model proved to be almost equal to the Fortuner in the area of demand for the vehicle. So robust was its acceptance by car buffs that Alterra would soon find customers queuing up for it in much the same way as the Portuner.

A friend of mine, not so much sold to compact SUVs before, was so enamored with the Alterra that he made it a point to be one of the first owners of the new Alterra just before the year ended. He became the first Alterra owner

in his village and he rang me on the phone to announce it

According to my friend and other Alterra buyers like him, the Isuzu pride is not only a "gas miser" but also is "the perfect ride for a family that loves to go to the country for pic nics or weekend vacations."

My, do I see Isuzu's Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales, Timmy Naval and Ronald "Isuzu Joe" Baiadad grinning from ear to ear?

But back to Kengo Takase, who plays golf for relaxation like Mel Dizon, Mitsubishi's

senior vice president for marketing. Always smiling that if you don't know who he is, Takase could be mistaken for an insur-

nnce salesman eternally looking happy. "He is so friendly and gentle that he fits the tag as the perfect boss one can ever dream of," said Arlan Reyes, Mitsubishi's trouble-

shooting guy under Proy Dytiangquin. Any major plans for Mitsubishi in 2006? "We need to come up with new models, especially in the passenger car category, said Takase, "Hopefully, we could build one, or even more, this year."

I wish you luck, Takase-san.

QUOTE ME, Lanes for overtaking at NLEX are reserved for motorists wishing to overtake. You ignore that and either you don't understand English at all or you are nuts fit for the mental hospital.

Editor Aries Espinosa

People, Events Products

A beach resort a 'million miles away' from stress

IMAGINE THE MOST AMAZING SPA sands, guests can pamper themselves services and luxurious accommodations at an exclusive villa. What do you get? The perfect holiday, of course! Sometimes it is absolutely necessary to drop everything, to stop the clock and just get lost in a beautiful vacation. And what other way to attain that? By allowing yourself to be wooed by the charms of the Pearl Parm Beach Resort, with its unmatched natural beauty and friendly staff.

The resort is located on the quiet side of Samal Island in the southern part of the Philippines. Samal is a beautiful, tranquil, exotic island with a coastline adorned with white sand beaches, abundant marine life, mangroves, rock formations and charming landscape of coconut palms, flowering plants and fruit-bearing trees. Once a pearl farm where thousands of whitelipped systers were cultivated for their pink, white and gold pearls, this 14-hectare spread beckons with the promise of a relaxing private retreat, a million miles away from the noise and congestion of civilization.

Just a mere 45-minute boat ride from the wharf of Waterfront Hotel in the city of Davao, this haven invites visitors to experience body and soul rejuvenation. With 73 guestrooms, suites, cottages on stilts perched above the sea and exclusive villas all designed from Maranao and Samal ethnic influences, and surrounded by abundant greenery, it is truly a serene oasis.

Aside from de-stressing while lazing around the mesmerizing infinity pool, or sunbathing on the spotless white

by availing of massage and spa services at the Ylang-Ylang Soothing Lounge. Surrounded by trees and thick foliage, nothing is more soothing than the sounds of trickling water from a nearby waterfall and the mild scent emanating from candles to go with a heavenly massage. The lounge is certifiably a unique spa experience, using health and beauty products made out of the most natural of ingredients.

For the more active guests, the resort has badminton, tennis and basketball courts available 24/7 A pathway intended for joggers may also be used to walk off the extra calories from the oh-so sumptuous lunch or diruser buffets served at the Maranao Restaurant, while breathing in fresh air. The restaurant features delicious Filipino and international cuisine, with (fresh) seafood specialties. A panorama of water sports activities is also accessible, which includes wave runners, wind surfing, water polo and a fun banana boat ride for the youngsters or the young at-heart. Sea kayaks, hobie cats, and water skis are also on hand. The waters around Pearl Farm have been declared a marine sanctuary. Aside from protecting the abundant marine life, the waters also nurture two sunken WWII Japanese vessels. The island boasts a total of 17 dive sites just waiting to be explored.

Pearl Farm Beach Resort is a popular site for special intimate events. Malipano Island, a secluded island located a few hundred meters off Samal Island, is where seven exclusive villas of

the resort are located. The groups of villas are also designed from Maranao and Samal ethnic influences. The traditional Philippine hat, the salakot, inspires the shapes of the villas' roofs. It offers three holes of golf and a private beach with white sand. Accessible by speedboat or pump boat, the island is perfect for romantic weddings and occasions as such. The expansive Malipano gardens can easily be transformed into a picturesque setting for a tropical wedding reception. The Malipano Gazebo on the other end of the island is another alternative for intimate and private gatherings.

For pasalubong, guests may visit the Butik, which offers a variety of local treasures. From local handicrafts, native outfits and even the latest in trendy beachwear. To end the flawless day, guests can take a mightcap or two at the Parola Bar and sing along to popular tunes, or just simply take in the stunning views of the sea, the famous Mr. Apo, or gaze at the might sky scatrened with stars.

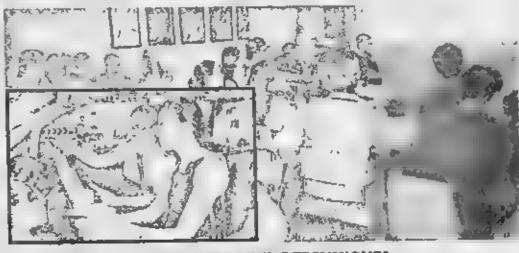
Pearl Farm Beach Resort is managed by Puego Hotels & Properties and owned by Anflo Resort Development Corp (Anflo Group of Companies). For inquiries and reservations, call the island resort at (082)221-9970 to 73, fax (082)221 9979, the Davao City offices at (082)235-0876, (082)234-0601, or its Manila offices at 750-1896, 750-1898, 893-2093, or fax 750-1894. E-mail pearlfarm@fuegohorels.com, or log on to www.pearlfarmresort.com or www.fuegoho-



SMART CITED FOR TRIBUTE AND SERVICE TO PINOY SEAFARERS

Smart Communications inc was recently cited for bringing Filipino seafarers abroad vessels in the high seas closer to loved ones back home! through efficient telecommunications services like its satellite service SmartLink. The citation was given by the Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment (FAME) Inc during 'Ang Marino, Bow!', a concert in tribute to the Alipino seafarer staged by Smart In partnership with

FAME. Shown receiving the plaque of appreciation is Smart public affairs group head Ramon R Isberto with (left) Smart public access department head Ting Marlano. Also shown are (from center) guests of honor Department of Labor and Employment Undersecretary Manuel Imson and Department of Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon, and FAME president Jusephine J. Francisco.



PETRON TEACHES EFFICIENT DRIVING TECHNIQUES

Petron's Fuel Drive at the CCP Complex, Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, taught motorists several driving techniques to save time, money, and effort. Philippine racing legend Pocholo Ramirez (shown inset, left), sons and racing veterans

Kookie and Louis gave emphasis on proper braking, making correct U-turns and parking. Petron Xtra Unleaded, the Automobile Association of the Philippines, DZRH DZMB and Yes-FM spearheaded the event.

World's most famous beagle offers trendy but practical clothing, footwear

Charles M. Schulz's "Peanuts" comics strip was first published, por malls across Metro Manila and Snoopy remains to be the world's most famous Beagle. The lovable Landmark, and most department and eccentric dog has achieved stores in major cines across the superstar status with his vivid imagination and silent wit

The worldwide success of Snoopy can easily be measured. Printed in over 2,600 newspapers, in over 100 countries around the world, translat ed in over 60 languages and loved by millions of fans, Snoopy-mania has been licensed and franchised with over 200,000 products, including dothing and footwear, worldwide

The Snoopy brand of quanty children's apparel and footwear has been in the Philippines for 22 years, and Wishbone Marketing Co, the exclusive Philippune licensee through the Beagle Place Bourique, has wit-

16 free-standing stores in most macounters in all Shoemart, Robinsons,

For 18 years, Beagle Place still maintains the loyalty and patronage of avid Snoopy fans across Manua, with its locally produced line of children's clothing. And for the first time since its ininal launch, the Beagle Piace Boutique recently launched and presented to the public its 2005 Beagle Place Holiday Collection

Charmaine Zamora, one of the key partners at Beagle Place, explains their vision for the future. "We want the brand to keep up with the times. Nowadays, even young children choose what they want to wear. We are giving the kids many more options than ever before. We are ex-

moved and matched, in a full range of colors, fabrications, and details. The polos for boys are also worn by gurs and we're breaking old fashion barriers such as pink being for girls and blue only for boys."

The Snoopy line of children's wear appeals especially to parents' standards of practicality in terms of price and quality. It makes a strong point of keeping its prices down and imposing the strictest quality control standards using the best US stan dard corron and long-lasting threads. The prices range from P200 to P300 for shirts.

Pamela Cua, one of the main partners at Beagle Place, is proud to point out that all Beagle Place clothing are Philippine-made, with yet the highest standards maintained. "One of our regular customers mentioned that the Beagle Place clothing

NEARLY 56 YEARS AFTER nessed unprecedented success with perimenting more; dothes can be she purchased for her children years ago could sail now be worn by her grandchildren. That, in itself, is one of the greatest compliments and shows how good the quality of our products are."

The Beagle Place Boutique carries a full line of clothing for children aged 6 months to 9 years old. Pam is quick to correct the misconception that Beagle Place only carries cloth ing for boys. "We manufacture casual jeans, jackets, shorts, blouses, storts, dresses and semi-formal dother for boys and guis."

What gives Beagle Place its edge over any of the other characterbased labels is that the collections are complete from tops to bottoms, including all kinds of footweat, from rubber shoes to sandals, school shoes, and party shoes. And the styles are not boring, some being quite fun and funky, in fact.



MI INKS CONTRACT WITH IJ MAGIC CREAM

Sexy singer and actress Hanni Miller is the official product endorser of L Magic Cream, the newest magic gel that whitens all dark areas of the body The actress, who has emerged victorious in her battle with utenne cancer, is back after almost a two-year hiatus. IJ Magic Cream is the only 'authentic brand in the market that whitens the skin and evens out skin tone. Not only that, it also helps cure other skin problems, such as acne, freckles. pimpies and other harmful bacteria. LI Magic Cream contains no harmful ingredients, making it safe to use for the whole family. Hann't is now promoting the brand in her TV guestings, out-of-

town shows and other singing engagements. Early this year, Hanni is stated to record an album under Dyna Records al Magic Cream is available in all ZenZest outlets, leading drugstores, beauty shops and supermarkets nationwide. It is distributed locally by Saramed Pharmaceuticals Inc. For more details, call 0921-7697254 or 0921-6069233 and look for Irene Reves, Shown are, from left, Ricardo Reyes, president of Saramed Pharmaceuticals, Hanni Miller and Irene Reyes, general manager of Saramed Pharma during the formal signing of the contract held at Mario's Restau-

LUZON 4X4 FEDERATION feted the hosts and winners of the 2005 series in a yearend gathering held at the Virgin Café on Tomas

Morato Street, Quezon City Dec. 7. Plaques of appreciation were awarded by Luzon 4x4 Federation directors Blue Reyna and Olson Camacho, representatives of clubs who hosted this year's event, to Pol Herrera of the Del Monte 4 Wheelers; Boyet Rivera of the Land Cruser Club of the Philippines Nueva Ecija Chapter, Ronnie Mata of the Bongabon 4x4 Club; Josel Bitum of the Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines Pampanga Chapter, Rey Liwanag of the Angeles 4 Wheelers; Councilor Sid Lapuz and Jun Nocom of Muñoz Science City; and Boyle Doblada of the Rizal Of-

Sponsors were also given recognition during the event. Lending their support to the 2005 series were Petron Rev-X. Silverwind, Bilstein, Malgia Marketing, Hummer Philippines, Clark Development Corp, Sunbolt Sports Drink and Goodyear.

Receiving their trophies from the Federation threctors were winners in the year. different categories, namely, Marcelino Mendoza (champion), Numeriano Samson (2nd) and Gerry Acuña (3rd), Production Class series; Lucy Sy (champion) and Alex Tan (2nd), Navigator of the Year series; Cocoy Ramos (champion), Edison Dungea (2nd), Omer Dungca (3rd), Arthur Azcuna (4th) and Noel Dizon (5th), 4-Cylinder Class; and Noel Bartolome Jr (champson), Dante Dungca (2nd), Noel Dizon (3rd), Caesar Villacorta (4th) and John Sambo (5th), 6-Cylinder Class.

Special guest at the awarding and dinner event was Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) motorsports committee chair Mandy Eduque, who congramlated the Luzon 4x4 Federation for its efforts to organize the offroad community and encouraged the recently abgred Luzon 4x4 Federation, Visayas 4x4 Federation and Mindanao 4x4 Federation to proceed with bringing off-roading in the Philippenes to common ground with the end in view of

naming a "National Champion" each

Eduque also expressed enthusiasm for the combined efforts of the AAP and the aligned federations to have Filipmo off-roaders participate in international competitions, such as the recent event in China to which the Lizzon 4x4 Federation and the AAP sent Noel Bartolome and Oison Camacho.

Reyna, a former championship-winrung rally navigator in his time, meanwhile, thanked the sponsors and supporters of 4x4 events in the country as well as the host clubs of the 2005 events for all their assistance and support in spite of the hard times.

According to Reyns, "Pollowing the successful staging of the 2005 series, which comprised seven events and included two raily-raids, a format with fast growing participation, I am extending this invitation to competitors, hosts and sponsors to jour next year's season which will have six events, three of which will have the closed circuit format and the other three will be rally-raids."



SHOWN, from left, are Ondo Apat of Davao Mindanao: Tim Moreno of Mindanao Fun Club, Noel Bartolome of Land Cruiser Club of the Philippicies, Luzon 4x4 Federation president Blue Rey-

Reyna also announced the alignment of the Luzon 4x4 Federation, the Visayas 4x4 Federation and the Mindanao 4x4 Pederation, which will promote off-roading on a national scale with

na; Bong Jubac of Mindanao Fun Club and Oison : Camacho, director of Luzon 4x4 Federation coming together for the yearend celebration and awards night of the Luzon 4x4 Federation Series.

standardized rules and officiating guidelines. Luzon 4x4 Federation has also taken the lead in making representations with other 4x4 organizations in Asia regarding international events.



Affordable water station business

THE WATER REFILLING STATION BUSINESS IS HERE to stay. Water is the most basic commodity next to shelter, food, medicine and clothing. Finding a good water business with a small investment startup is now made easy with the Electromex UHP-500 Ozonated Mineral Water refilling station. The only thing you'll have to provide is your store space of at least 6 square meters. The system is a "plug-and-play", fully assembled, standalone compact station complete with filters, pumps, tanks, ultraviolet and ozone generator germ-hilling sys-

tem. The P150,000 investment in your station gives you 3,000 gallons a day with a low production cust of only 30 centavos per gailon, thus providing high-profit, low

overhead and a fast 6-month return on investments Best of all, it doesn't waste any water unlike the reverse osmosis back wash system. The Ozone Water System is germ-free and safe, as what is used in France, Switzerland and other advanced countries. If you're looking for the best value for your money in the water business, call 531-6782 or 535-9069, or log on to www.celectromexinc.com.



Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONSILY DAW IN THE FEBRUARY 18 2006 IN EDISCITE TO BE BY THE CONVERS N OF THE C TY OF TO A HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY

A#ALOS, Benjamin S. «AVIER, Ruffico S.B. SACAIN, Mehol K. CORRA, Resurrection Z., TLASON, Florentine A. Jr MRAWNER, Remote A.,

Commissions Commissione Commissioner Commissions

abor 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 7617

Pursuent to the powers visited in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7166, Republic Act No. 7166, and other election Haws, the Commission on Elections RESOLVED to adopt, as it hereby RESOLVES to edopt the following Calender of Activities and Periods of Prohibited Acts for the February 18, 2005 plablicate to retify the conversion of Teriso City from a component city to a highly schemized city, to will

DATEMERICO

Junuary 18, 2008 (WED)

te February 20, 2006 (MON)

January 18, 2008 (SAT)

February 18, 2006 (BAT)

PLESISCITE ACTIVITIES

PLEMICITE PERIOD

PROHIBITED ACTS COVEREDANYOL VED

* Bearing, carrying or transporting threatms or other deadly weapons in public piaces, including any building, street, park er a e vehicle or public c. e. e even il Scr 500 DOSESS O carry the same unless authorized in writing by the Commission, (Sec. 261 (pl (q) (a) OEC as amended by

o. 32 R.A. No. 7186: 2 Suspension of siscilve local officials, (Sec. 261 (II)

a Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Bervice, (Sec. 261 (h) OEC).

4 Organization maintenance of reaction larces, stilke larces or other similar lorces. (See 361 [U] OEC)

Appointment or hiring of new employees Sec. 261 (a) OEC)

8 Creation or Illing up of new positions, (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 2. Promotions or giving of Increases, salary.

rempreration or privilege (Sec. 261 (g) OEC) A Construction of public works, delivery of melecials for public works and teauence of Iresaury carrants or similar device for a future undertaking

chargeable against public funds. (Sec. 251 (w) OEG): Reterret, diebursements works and social pervices and development. (Sec 261 (v) OEG).

4 Appointment of use of special policemen, special confidential agents or the

like. (Sec 261 (m) OEC): alcoraft. (Sec. 281 (r) OEC)

6. Wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms. (Sec. 26* (a) OEC)

mustry 18, 2006 (WED) to February 18, 2006 (THU) February 3, 2006 (FFR)

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Submission is Comelec of complete Het of all special confidential agents or persons performing similar functions in the employ of berangey cheirman, municipal mayor er any appointing authority

cast day for appointment at members of Plebische

Posting of the Certified List of

Voters as of October 2005

February 13, 2006 W N) te February 12, 2006 ,SAT)

February 17, 2008 (FFII) transcion of Pulling Places

February 18, 2006 (SAT)

PLEMINCITE DAY

Jiquor Ben (starting 12 Midnight) - Selling, lumishing. offering, buying, serving, ac teking intoxicating liquor, size (sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC) 3. Cocklighting, and other

other similar sports. (Sec 2 Giving, accepting free ransportation, Good

larms of gumbling, holding airs, boxing and/or any

rining, and things of value (Sec 86, OEC) 3 Salling, Aumiening, offering buying, serving, or tak

(5ec. 26 (dd), (1), OEC) 4. Opening at boothe or siells for the sale of merchandles, refreshment, atc. wither 30 meters radius rom poling place ,Sec 261 (ed) (2) OEC)

February 20, 2006 (MON)

LAST DAY OF PLESHSCITE PERMOD

cat this describes be published by the Education and Information Department (EID) in a revenpager of general circulation, and in a newspager with local circulation in Tarlac City. The Deputy
Executive Director for Operations what furnish the Regional Section Director of Tarlac Sity. The Persecutive Director of Tarlac City. The Secretary of the Department Election Supervisor of Tarlac and the Election Objects of Tarlac City. The Secretary of the Department of the Director and Local City. of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Provincial Severnment of Tallec, the City-Negorial Tablec City, the City Treasurer and the DepEst Superintendent of Tallec, the City the Severnment of Tallec, the City the City the Severnment of Tallec, the City the Severnment of Tallec, the City the City the City the Severnment of Tallec, the City the Severnment of Tallec, the City the Cit

The Election Officer of Tarioc City, shall give this Flountation the wished publication in the sity The Papelisters whell take affect upon he provide the





Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2006 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE CONVERSION OF TARLAC CITY FROM A COMPONENT CITY TO A

HIGHLY DIMIANIZED CITY

ABALOS, Benjemin S. JAVIER, Rutino SB BADAIN, Metrol K. BORRA Resurrection Z YUASON, Jr. Florentine A. RAWNER, Roman A

Commissional Commissioner

mulasted: 22 Dec

RESOLUTION NO. 7618

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the Cenetitution, the Omnabus Election Gods, the Local Government Code of 1991. Republic Act No. 7185, and other election laws, PIESOLVED to promitigate, set it hemby RESOLVES to promitigate, the lestowing rules and requisitions to govern the conduct of the February 15, 2006 plabacite to rathly the convention of Tarino City from a component city to a highly urbanized city.

SEC. 1. Supervision and central. - The Commission on Elections shall have alread established of the foundation over the consuct of the pleasants

SEC. 2. Expenses and election forms and parapharmitis. — The expenses in holding the plotecte which shall include the proting of official barots, plotecte relains and other forms, the producement of supplies and parapharmitis, the per diens of the members of the Publishie Committees, the overtime compensation of the City Plotecte Board of Carwasses and their support shall other operational and incidental expenses, and the coals of publication of resolutions and information materials, shall be borne by Tarles City.

For this purpose, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (ODEDC) shall require the City Election Officer of Tarise City to precess the budgetery requirements of its office, submit the budget for the holding of the pleblecke; and require the proponent to semediately appropriate and remail the recessary amount.

The Commisses on Allocation, Printing, Receptor, and Verification, Packing and Shipping.
Election and Serangey Affairs Department and Administrative Services Department shall prepare their storage of administrative, operational and rechnical budgetary needs, which shall be reviewed and consolidated by the OOEDO, and shall automit the come in the Commission En Banc, for approval

stint Proclamation No. 946, - At least ten (10) days prior to The day of the plebasche, the EO of Terlac City shall course the posting of copies of Presidential Proclamation No. 540, entitled; "CONVERTING THE CITY OF TARLAC FROM A

COMPONENT CITY TO A HIGHLY LIBRARIZED CITY", in all the pelling pieces of Tarins City

BSC. 4, information comparien. An objective information comparing shall be conducted by the whole of Tartic City, to commerce on Jenuary 18, 2006 up to February 18, 2006. During this seried, civid, professional, religious, business, youth and any other similar organizations may hold symposis, public relies or meetings to enlighten the voters of Tartic City on the ploblacks teaus, and to comparing for or against the religionless of Proclamation No. 940. Constructive discussions and debates shall be encouraged and the voters assumed of the freedom to vote their opinion regarding the leaves, advantages or disadvantages thereof

The EO of Yarles City. In apposituation with the local government officials, mean medic, NGOs and religious groups shall converse barangey sees whites or "pulong-pulonger for each constructive

BEC. S. Date of pleblacite and veting hours. — The pleblacity shall be held on February 16. 2006 (Saturday). The veting shell start at seven s'clock in the morning and and at three d'clock in the afternoon.

BEC. E. Area of coverage. - The problectic shall be held in the whole of Tarles City

SEC. 7 Who may value. — All qualified voters of Tarlet City duly registered as of the May 10, 8004 Elections, including those whose applications for registration and/or transfer of registration accords have been approved by the Election Registration Edend of Tarteo City as of the last quarterly EIPS hearing on October 17, 2005, and entitled to vote in the plobtacle

The ED of Tarted City which propers the finte of values for use in the phoblecite in second

BEC. 8. Physicolic Committee Composition. Componention, butter and Punctions. —The vering and counting of voters shall be conducted in each polying place by a Plebiscite Committee (Committee) composed of a Chairman, a Poli Clerk and a Third Member who shall all be public achool teachers, to be appointed by the Commission through the EO of Tartie City.

Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to a per diem of Seven Hundred Pages switch 00) for pervices rendered on the day of the pleblacks

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

Supervise and conduct the voting is the politing place on February 18, 2006; Count the votice and theresiter prepare the plebiscite returns and other required sociarents/reports and distribute the same as herein provided. Furnish watching certificate of votes upon request.

Return the bookin of voters to the EO, through the principal of the politing certers, whill deliver the other plebicits paraphernalls to the respective custodies for seleteeping are later than factoring 30, 2006. not later than Fabruary 20, 2005

Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the pieblecite in the noting places wherein they are seeigned to eneme the hotolog of iree, orderly, honses, pescalail and credible plablacke, Matrials order within the polling place and its premises, to heap appear thereis, open

and unobstructed, and to enforce obscilence to its lewful orders. If any parson shall reluce to obey lewful orders of the Committee or shall conduct Himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing thereby interrupting or disturbing in proceedings, the Committee may texts an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent the person so taken into custody from exercising he right to vote. Such order shell be executed by any peace officer to whom it may be delivered, but if none in present, by any other person deputited by the Committee in writing; and

Partern such other functionalitaties as may be prescribed by the Commission

SEC. 9. Disqualifications. — (a) No parson shall serve as chalcase or member of the Committee if he is related within the lowifit old degree of consenguinity or affinity is any mainteer. of the same Committee.

(b) He member of the Committee shall engage, directly or indirectly, it any parties political activity or take part in the problems, accept to decreage his duties as such, and to vote provided he is a registered voter of Tarter City

SEC, 18. Precinets and patting places. — For purposes of the February 18, 2006 Plublecite. the precincle established as of May 10, 2004 Elections shall be adapted, subject to the provisions. clion 11 harnot

The location of polling places designated in the May 10, 2004 Elections shall be maintained with such changes as the Commission may authorize, after notice and hearing to the interested parties to the political unit affected. Provided, that no location of political place shall be changed within litteen (15) days wiredialely preceding the day of the pleblactic except when it is declayed or it cannot be used

BEC. 11 Clustering of Precingts. - To obvious problems on insufficiency of Committees and patting places, the EO shall group (cluster) precincts in accordance with the following goldelines:

The number of precincts in a group (duatert shell not be more than three (3).
The aggregate number of voters in a group shall not exceed four hundred (400):
The practices in a group shall belong to the same territory, same politing center and same.

The individual precinct numbers and list of voters of the precinets in a group shall be

maintained separately in no case stuff they be combined; and.
The battors for the predicts in a group shall be deposited in one belief box and livet are
Plebecite Committee shall be eseigned for each group of precinct or precinct cluster.

AEC. 12. Precipied Level Computational Voters Link (PCVL). — The EO of Tarles City shall print six (6) copies of PCVL which shall be cartilled by the Election Registration Board (ERS). The two (2) copies of the PCVL shall be given to the Committees for use on plablacite day. The other law: (4) copies of the PCVL shall be distributed as follows:

One copy for posting at the Other of the Election Officer of Tarles City:
One copy for the National Central File, Election Records and Statistics Department.
Commission on Elections, Marite, and Commission on Elections, Marile, and

One copy for the Provincial File. Office of the Previncial Election Supervisor of Taries SEC 13. Distribution of Pichiscite Forms and Supplies. - The City Tressurer shall in coordination with the EO concerned, destribute the platescale forms and supplies to the Committees. The EO or his subhorized representatives shall release the Societ of Voters and the PCVL to the School Principal concerned who shall in turn release them to the Platescale Committees.

SMC, 1-4, Official helicits. - The chicle before shall be distributed at the ratio of one hallot per veter The official behots to be used in the ploblectic shall bear the following heading "OFFICIAL BALLOT" "PLEBISCIPE", "FEBRUARY 18.2000" "TARLAC CITY" and undernestly shallot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any pert of this belot."

The lollowing question shall be provided in the afficial beliefs TOO YOU APPROVE OF THE CONVERSION OF THE CITY OF TABLAC FROM A COMPONENT CITY TO A RIGHLY URBANIZED CITY PURSUANT TO PROCLAMATION NO. 940?"

SEC. 15. Proliminarios to the Counting of Votes: — (a) The Committee shall clear the labor of all unnecessary writing paraphemeter

(b) The Committee shall open the ballot bex, take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots and, without unfolding or exposing their contents, assemble them using the following guidelines. Bullois felded together - The Currenties shall paper and spech left consists of a single

If its the course of the exemination, ballots are found lotded together before they were deposited in the belief box, they shall be placed in an envelope for excess beliefs

2 Excess belicis - The Committee shall count the beliefs and compare the number of installa waters who actually voted

If there are more beliefs than the number of valers who astually valed, loker the procedures provided for in Sec. 16 hereof Befors with detechable coupons. In case beliefs with their detechable coupon are found

people with personance coupons — in case people with him competends for apolled in the box, the competends for apolled beliefs, and the beliefs shall be included in the piece of valid builds. Ballots with the word "spoiled"—If ballots with the word "spoiled" shall be found, they shall be pleased in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

The below deposited in the compartment for spoted below shall be presumed to be spotted below, whether or not they contain such notation; but if the Commistee should find that beliots, whether or not they contain such notation; but if the Constrainte should find that buting the voting any visit ballots was encourably deposited in this compartment, or if any halfot separated as excess or marked had been encourably deposited therein, the butine shalf open said compartment after the voting and before the country of votes for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballots encousary deposited therein. If shall then prepare and sign a statement of such fact the box with all these keys immediately thereither. The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots, and the excess or marked ballots shall be placed in their proper shrutiopes which shall for such purposes be opened and again lebeled, sealed, eigned and lept as herinalities provided.

Excess and applied beliefs shall not be read in the counting of votes. The poli clerk shall take hold of the pleciable returns and the third member shall suck the ely board on the blackboard or any available space within the plain view of the menutes, weighers and the public

SEC. 16. Namer of Counting of votes. - The counting of votes shall be public without

emupliers or detay until completed and shall praceed as follows: The committee shall open the belief box, interout the beliefs and without sateleting them or expessing their continue except so far as to expertain that each belief is saigle, compare the number of beliefs at the box with the number of vesses who accusely voted as recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting

If there are more ballois found than there are voters who accusity voted, all the beliefs stake to returned inside the box and thoroughly hyssel therein. The Poli Clerk, without seeing the beliefs and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess, and without untolding them, place them in an envelope which shall be marked as "quotes ballots," seeled and signed by the Committee

If there are no excess or the excess has been taken out. The Committee shell form separate plac of 100 bettets each which shall be held together by rubber band The Chairman shall take the ballots of the list pile and read the ballots one by one, while

Poll Clark and Third Member shall sknullaneously record on the plablectic returns and tally board, respectively, each vote as it is need by the Chairmen Each vote shall be recorded by a vertical line, except every lifth vote, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

After tinishing the tirst pile, the Committee shall count the takes for the Afternative and Magallive votes and record the sub-totals in the column immediately after the line recorded in the pteblecie calume and tally board, respectively

The Poli Clark and the Trind Mendon shall compare the letter reducted in the plateate

In case of clacespancy, a recount shall be made. The beliefs shall again he grouped logether as before the reading. Theregives the same procedures what he followed with the percent and extensions plans

After all the ballots for the presinct have been sounted, the Committee shall

Sum up the sub-toiet of recorded Aliemative and hispative Votes and enter the grand total as words stood repair a 2rd and to a 2rd and a 2rd

BEC. 17 Appreciation of Bullets.—The provisions of Sec. 211 of the Cranibus Election Code whenever applicable, shall govern the appreciation of before. Any question as the appreciation at heavy shall be decided by majority vote of the Committee.

No watcher or any other paraon inside the polling place shall be allowed to participate in the approximate of testicis. However, any watcher may his a protest, which shall be recorded in the Minutes. SEC. 18. Philippine Poliums and Distribution of Copies Thereot. - Probacts returns shall be prepared in three (3) copies. At the marriage of the Committee shall age the carricology protect at the bottom of the pleasess returns and affective thomb marks on the speed provided.

Lipon completion of the pistisoite returns, each copy shall be placed in separate envelopes syded for the purpose, and the Covernities shall transducing deproduct the same under proper islaly distribute the same under proper recess), as julions

The limit capy, to the City Photocle Board of Conveyeers
The second copy, to the Election Records and Statistics Department at the Convertibation in Marries, and

(3) The third copy shall be deposited traids the bellet had SEC. 19. Anneuncement of Planette. - Upon completion of the platecite returns, the Charmen of the Committee shall credy and publicly announce the test pursuer of Afficinative and legative Votes cast and counted in the precinct

SEC 20. Alterations and Corrections of Plaistedia Returns. — Any correction or alteration and the plainted returns by the Committee before the engouncement of the meute of the plabacite in the polaring place shall be duly initiated by all the members instead. After the announcement of the requite of the ploblacite, the Committee shall not make any elien or amendment in any of the copies of the returns, unless ordered by the Commission

260, 21. Gertificative of Votes. - Before leaving the precisel, the Committee shall lesus a Conficulty of Votes to the weathers upon the letter's request 9dC, 22. Delivery of the Solist Boxes, and Other Supplies and Community, Procesystian

of Vesting Mesercia, Butlet theres and their Keys, and their Disposition. — The previsions of Section 217, 218 and 219 of the Omnibus Election Code on detrusty of befor boxes, keys and section supplies and documents, preservators of the volting records and befor boxes, and their keys and deposition of their contexts shall apply is the prebisoits governed by this

BEC. 23. (*febricole Beard of Convisioners. - There shall be one (1) City Fishboth Board of Convisions (CPBC) for Tariac City which shall convess the peolectic returns submitted by the Convisions. The CPBC shall be composed of the incumbent City Election Officer or a lawyer of the Commission, as Challman; and as mambers, the City Prosecutor and the City Schools Division Superintendent therest, subject to Sec. 27 hereof

The CPBC may create such number of sub-carriessing committees to expedite the servers of the pleblacite returns in the four hundred larty-one (441) clustered precincle. The members of the sub-carriessing committees shall be the same as the composition of the CPBC.

At least live (5) days before the day of the phobacite, the chelevier shall leave a written notice to the other members of the CPBC (had it shall converse at lour o'clock in the attention of plebiacite day to carryass the plebiacite returns. Notice of said meeting shall be posted in conspicuous places in the City Hall and other public places in Tartec City. The CPBC shall meet at the City Session Half of Tartec City not befor then four o'clock is the attention of orbitacits day and shall invance that chesses the places and shall advance until problems cay and shall immediately carvess the ploblecite referent and shall not adjourn unit the canvane is completed

SEC 24. Supervision and Central over the City Philippite Board of Centraceum, -The Committation shall have direct control of and supervision over the CPBC and may most proportionally at any time any member thereof for cause and may substitute him in accordance web Sec. 27 hereof

SEC 25. Absence of a Regular Member, -- In case of absence of a requier member the members present shall first verily whether or not the notice stalling the date, time and place of convessing has been duly served on the absent regular member

In the absence of such notice, one shall be immediately sent to the absent member. If the letter cannot be located, or his whereabouts are unknown, he shall hen be substituted. These facts shall be recorded in the respective minutes of the CPBC. As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member shall retireus his seek to the require member.

BEC. 36, Incapacitated Regular Member. — In case of alchaese or serious injury of the regular member, is sworn medical certificate shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said member. Upon authorisation of the medical certificate, is substitute shall be appointed. Said certificate shall be recorded in the Minutes of the GPBC. SEC. 27 Substitution of Chairman and Members, - In case of non-availability

elegicallication dust to relationship or incapacity for any cause of the chairman, the Commission shall appoint a lewyer of the Commission as substitute. With respect to the other members of the CPPC, the Commission shall appoint as substitute the following in the order named: City Administrator, the City Assessor the Clerk of Court nominated by the Executive Judge of the City Trial Court, and other systeble appointme City official SEC. 28. Prehibition Against Leaving Official Station. - During the period beginning

February 18, 2005 until the completion of the canvass, no member or substitute member of the CPBC shall be transferred, assigned or detailed outside of the official station not shall be eve his station without prior authority of the Commission SEC. 29. Overview. - A majority of the members of the CPSC shall constitute a quorum

for the transaction of business. A majority vote of all the members thereof shall be necessary to sender a decision

SEC. 38. Watchers: Rights and Daltes. —The preparents and oppositions, registered political parties or costilion of political parties, the citizen's arm of the Commission, if any, and other accredited groups or organizations may appoint validants during the voting, counting and carryassing. A person who is not a registered voter of the City, of questions this reputation, or who has been convicted of an election offerage or any other crims shall not be appointed as weacher. Berangey officials, including barangey lancels, are stequelished to serve as weathers.

The veichors shall have the right to

(a) be present at, and take note of all the proceedings; to read the plablacke returns without louching them; and

tile a protest against any kregutarity noted in the plablacite return or in the proceedings of the CPBC and obtain the resolution thereon in writing

The weigher shell not be allowed to perticipate in the deliberation of the CPSC SEC. 11 Hight to be Present and to Counsel. - Proponents or oppositors have the

light to be present and to counsel during the convers of the returns. Only one counsel shall argue for the proponent or oppositor. In case there are several counsel for the proponente or appositors, they shall agree among themselves who will argue for them SEC. 32 Injurnal Convisioning Procedures. The CPSC shall must promptly at 4 s'also in the attention of plebische day and curviss the votes in the following manner

The Chairman of the CPSC shall list sequentially all precincts in the Statement of Votes (SOVs) by precinct and ensure that every precinct in the project of precincts is lasted linerain. The CPSC Chairman shall produce before the members, the belief

boxes containing plaberule returns: Before operang a batel box, the CPSC shall record the conditions and serial numbers perors operang a pariot cort, the Chocking sentally numbered fixed length seals:

The Chairman of the CPBC shall then open the ballot box, retrieval its envelopes bookship phiblicitis returns and record in its Minutes of Cervers, the condition and sental number of the etvelopes and their paper seals;

The Chairman of the CPBC shall open the envelope one at a time, record the condition and sental number of the condition and the chairman of the CPBC shall open the envelope one at a time, record the condition of the chairman of the chairman and the chairman and the chairman of the chairman and the

condition and serial number of the returns and its paper seel, and festivatis open the same ku canvassing Only such number of envelopes containing plateache returns that can be convessed

during the meeting of the board shall be opened which number shall be recorded in the Microbes of Carryllille Entries in the SOV by Precinct shall be made every time a piebiscite return to entries in the SOV by Precinct shall be indeed avery time a precise to return to carvatased. Once all the columns of the SOV are filled up, the members of the CPBC shall sum up the number of precincts certwisted, the runnber of agistined voters, the number of voters who actually voted, and the total Affirmative and Negative votes therein, and thereafter will's their trustels below their names appearing at the

partification ponien of the ferm; In case its copy of a piebledisy-sturne is miseting, the CPIRC shall, obtain such miseting includes from the Piebledisy-sturne is miseting, the CPIRC shall obtain such miseting returns from the Piebledist Contration contents of the Contration may use any of the authority copies of sect sets attention to the Contration from the CPIRC shall refer the case for investigation to the Regional Election Oriector (RED) concerned who shall report bis lindings to the Commission, and Each time the CPIRC supports its interinge or adjourne for the purpose of assembling to the contration principle principle.

for the other pleblecks returns, it shall

the other plebinote Nictros, it are an incomplete and Negative votes chaveseed Accomplete the totals of all Attimative and Negative votes chaveseed Accomplete the SOV by predict and attended the same with the initiate of the members following the test antry of Attimative and Negative votes. Place the SOV in an envelope, which shall be seated with a sensity curribance paper sest and signed by the members in the presence of all the members of the board and the watchers, and Place the plebiscies returns already conversed, the remeising unopened sewappes, and envelope containing a copy of the SOV inside a ballot box which shall be tocked with three packnows and a self-locking meight sain, the series neether of which shall be duly recorded in the Manufee of Carmets. Each member of the CPSC shell keep a key to the litree periods of a belief box so then it cannot be opened without all of them being present. The belief box she's be deposited in a secured room for salete-uping until the renumbion of its meeting

As the recumption of the convene, the secretary of the CPSC shall

Get the belot low from the secured cope and verily the condition of the belot box. She three padicks and the self-locking seniety numbered their length seat Enter to the Mounte a description of the condition (harded, as well as the senial number of the self-locking seniety numbered fixed length seats). Destroy the self-locking seniety numbered fixed length seats in the presence of the other members of the board and watchers; and Present to the CPBC the menanting unopered envelopes containing per 5 a returns and the official SOV contained in a duly seated and signed according.

 After an to plotocity returns assigned to it have been convened, the CPRC quoterned shall Propers a fally of the total affirmative and negative votes including the date

on the number of registered voters, number of voters who actually voted, and the total number of products it has curvateed. Such tally should be publicly the join number of processes the series and acceptable to ansure transparency; and Place the plainties returns copy for the PBC in their respective envelopes and deposit the same inside the belief box which shall be locked with three justices and seeled with a self-locking metal see.

Each member of the CPBC shall keep a july corresponding to the three puriodic

SEC, 33. Minutee of the Convesse of the CPBC, - The CPBC shall proper these (3) aggree of the Minutes of the Convest

The first copy shall be submitted by the Secretary of the CPBC to the Law Department of the Commission within ten (10) days from termination of converse. The second copy shall be paperled inside the ballot box. The first copy shall be forwarded to the Olice of the Deputy. escutive Director for Operations SEC. 34. Completion of the Corwest, "The OPBC shall sign the certification and affic their thumbrooks at the bottom of each SOV and, using a separate SOV consolidate the date including the total Affirmative and Negative votes. Therealter, it shall prepare a Conticate of Carwines and Proplemation (COCP) which shall contain the inflowing date.

number of precincts convenent; number of registered voters number of voters who actually value

number of affirmalwarnegative votes, and whether or not the inferstative/negative votes condition majority of the votes cost in the

Barringey concerned The COCP shall be supported by an BOV by precinct. The members of the CPBC shall print their sull names and affer their signatures and thumbmarks in the proper space at the policy of both forms and certify under calls that the entrees therein are true and correct.

SEC. 36. Distribution of the COCP. - The COCP shall be prepared in fetr (4) septem ported by a Statement of Votes per Present, and delebuted as follows: (1) The original shall, within these (2) days from proctamation, he sent is the Electio

Records and Statistics Department of the Commission.
The second copy shall be filed in the Othos of the Election Officer.
The third copy shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

The fourth copy shall be submitted to the City Mayor of Tertec City SIFC 36. Applicability of the Develous Election Code and Other Election Laws. The periment previsions of the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7160 and other election laws and resolutions of the Commission which are not inconsistent hersewife shall, se fer as practicable, apply to the plebisone subject of this Resolution.

SEC. 27 Implementation. -- The Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations nesisted by Election and Barangey Atlans Department, Finance Services Department, and Administrative Services Department, shall implement this Resolution to entere the holding of a free, orderly, honsel, pseculal and credible plablecks.

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations assisted by the Regional Election Director of Region 81 and Provincel Election Supervisor of Tartec shall supervise the conduct of the placement. SEC. 38. Dissemination. The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of the Resolution in one (1) delly newspaper of general disculption in the Philippines and one (1) local newspaper and give it the wides publication and discontinuation

or the Photoculor be published by the Fautason and internative Department (ESD) in 8 The Eth of Teles City and a parameter of the Fauctions and industration (Depthyrous (EXC) in the content of the parameter of the content of t

The EC of Taxtus City shot give this Penalution the widest publicative in Taxtus City BEC. 28. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall inlie effect upon in publicated

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jessy@mail.imet.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Government of the Philippens through the Department of Land Feltore (DLP) his received a form from the Asian Development Bank (AUC) toward the cost of Agessam Feltore Communium Project (ARCP). It is intended that proceeds of the icon will be applied to slightly payments under the costacts of Flural Intensituation Compound for which this invitation to Apply for Eightly and to Bid is leaved

The Provincial Government of Januar det Horis, though in Blok and Awards Committee (BACI), invites contractors represented with and closelied by the Philippine Contractors Acceptation Board (PCAS) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and 6 found eligible, to bid for the Immunities contract:

Consequentiations

Prospective bidders should position is valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, here completed a sholler contract with a value of it.

Prospective bidders should position is valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, here completed a sholler contract with a value of it.

Least 50% of the ABC, and here key preponent and sequentiated in the Eligibity Forms) are also for the presentation of the contract.

The BAC will use conduct contract property associated bid.

BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest citizated bid.

All particulars relative to Eight-by Statement and Screening, Bicl Security, Performance Socially, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evolvation of Bids. Post-Qualification and Award of Conferent what he governed by the partitional provisions of R.A. 9184 and as implementing Pains and

Schedule

January 17 2005

February 10, 2006 February 17, 2006 9 00 AM

March 1 2006 not later than

Constructed check/constants check/nonager's check to the around of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P423,193.48.

The BAC will taken Bedding Documents only to britishs declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-

The Province of Large dei Note reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bots, and wave any informably or fechnically sed to award to any bidder whose proposal is destruct most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Large del Note: The Provincial Government of Large del Note: assume to any bidder on the Government of Large del Piorie resider assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be injuried by the bidder on the

refundable amount of Efficer Troumand Brane only (P15.000,00) to the Provinces Government of Lance del Norte's Captier

preparation of their respective train ear does the Provincial Government of Lanco del Norte guaranties their as several will be made.

Surely Soud which is two and a ball porcent (2.5%) of ABC in the second P1,057,963 70 callebia on decrand and issued by

the Government Service Insurance System (GSSS) or by a reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in layor of the Provincest Government of Lanco del Horse

The BAC will became to prospective biddens Etigibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretarias, Girk Amenio A. Quibrance Provincial Government Center Pigcaranger, Tubod, Lanco del Norte, upon their automation of a LCIL, and upon their payment of a non-hondaire amount of Seven Hundred Pitty Prace only (P750.00) to the <u>Prognant Government of Lance del Hundred Prognative</u> bidders shall submit the Englishy Prace only (P750.00) to the <u>Prognat Government of Lance del Hundred Prognative</u> bidders shall submit the Englishy Prace only (P750.00) to the <u>Prognat Government of Lance del Hundred Prognative</u> bidders and submit the Englishy Check by the BAC at the same address.

2to 42,319,346.19

The achedule of BAC activities in as follows

3 Danders of Receipt of Establish Requirements. January 24 2008

Altacks must be eccompared by a Bid Security in the inflowing forms:

Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters at Interd (LCI) including Application for Eliphidity
 Issuance of Eligibidity Forms

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Contract Duration

Combact Reference Number

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PUBLIC MOTICES

Republic of the Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY San Ramon, Zambounga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid ROAD OPENING AT THE ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd INDUSTRIAL PARK (SEAFRONT - PHASE I)

The Zersbounge City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 Intends to apply the sum of ERGNY mill.LION SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED INNETY-SEVEN PESOS & 95/100 CNLY PAUTICIPAL INSTAURANCE IN Approved Budget for Continual (ABC) to physiophis under the contract for "Flood Opening at the ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd Industrial Park (Seafvork-Phase I)" Bits received in second of the ABC shall be submittedly rejected at Eld appains.

The Zambosings City Special Economic Zone Authrolly (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Inlant (LCts) from potential Bidders to apply for elephicly for the "Road Opening at the ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd Industrial Park (Seafront-Phase I)" Bidders should possess at the ZAMBOECOZONE 2nd industrial Park (Seafront-Phase I). Bitders structs possess in valid PCAB begres applicable to the above type and cost of the contract have completed a shrifter contract with a value of at least bit, percent (SONs) of the ABC, and meet the other remainment algorithm to the Engiship Documents interested Goders must extent these to the Engiship Documents upon payment of a nonveturidable fet of two Hundred Pesos (P 200.00) on January 12 - 17 2006 from \$10.0 Ab 5:00 PMs at the BAC Secretarist, 2nd Faors ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, Applications for eligibility withe evaluated on a passifish basis. The last day for the submission of the moornoished Elephity Documents shed be on the date of the opening of Exposity Documents of January 25, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Audio Visual Room. 3nd Floor ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboango City, Only those Golders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the blocking procedures as specified in the Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the implementing Fulse and Regulations Part A. (RRF-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise induces as the "Covernment Producement Reform Act." and its estimated otherwise stated to organizations with at Issue several-five point point (PSFS) interest or outstanding capital stock belanging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the RRF-A of RR-4184, only Bids from eligible 65ddes will be operated. In accordance with the WRF-A of RR-9184 a contract will only be accorded to the Lowest Catalisted and Responsive Bulder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Bigforley Documents to the BAC Secretarial, 2nd Poor, ZAMBOECGZONE, Administration Building on or before January 25, 2006

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that bassed the eighthy check upon the presentation of the Notice of Etigizality to the BAC Secretaria. If the activities and upon payment of a natifetandable fee of Timo Thousand Etre Hundred Person (P2,500.00). The Sidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on January 26. February 10, 2006 during office hours.

The Zamboungs City Special Economic Zone Authority ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Biol Conference open to all Expole Bidden on January 30, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Business, Sun Remon, Zemboongs City

Elegicia Bedders count maked. State Eleja at the midrous before on or buisses February 10, 2006. at 10:00 AM

All bids must be accompanied by a Bai Security in any of the following form: Michael Angurd in "a of Approved Output for the Contract to be BM Form of Sucurity Cash Cambre Check, Cashess Check, or Manager's Check. Two and a half Percent (2 to fig. GSAS Surety Bond

Late Bids shall not be excepted. Bid opening shall be on February 10, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, ZAMEOECCIZONE Administration Building, San Romon, Zerabonings City Bids will be operated in the presence of the Buddes representatives who choose to altend at the address below on February 10, 2006 at 18:00 AM Completion of the Works is required by 120 calender days.

The Zarchourge City Special Examinate Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept for reject any birt, to arrest the bidding processes, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Biddles or Biddles. (Sod , GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU Chairman and Administrator Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority Administration Buck org, San Ramon, Zambolinga City (062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209

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ss per DocF158, Page#31, PCS Dec. 21, 30 5 Jan. 61, 2003

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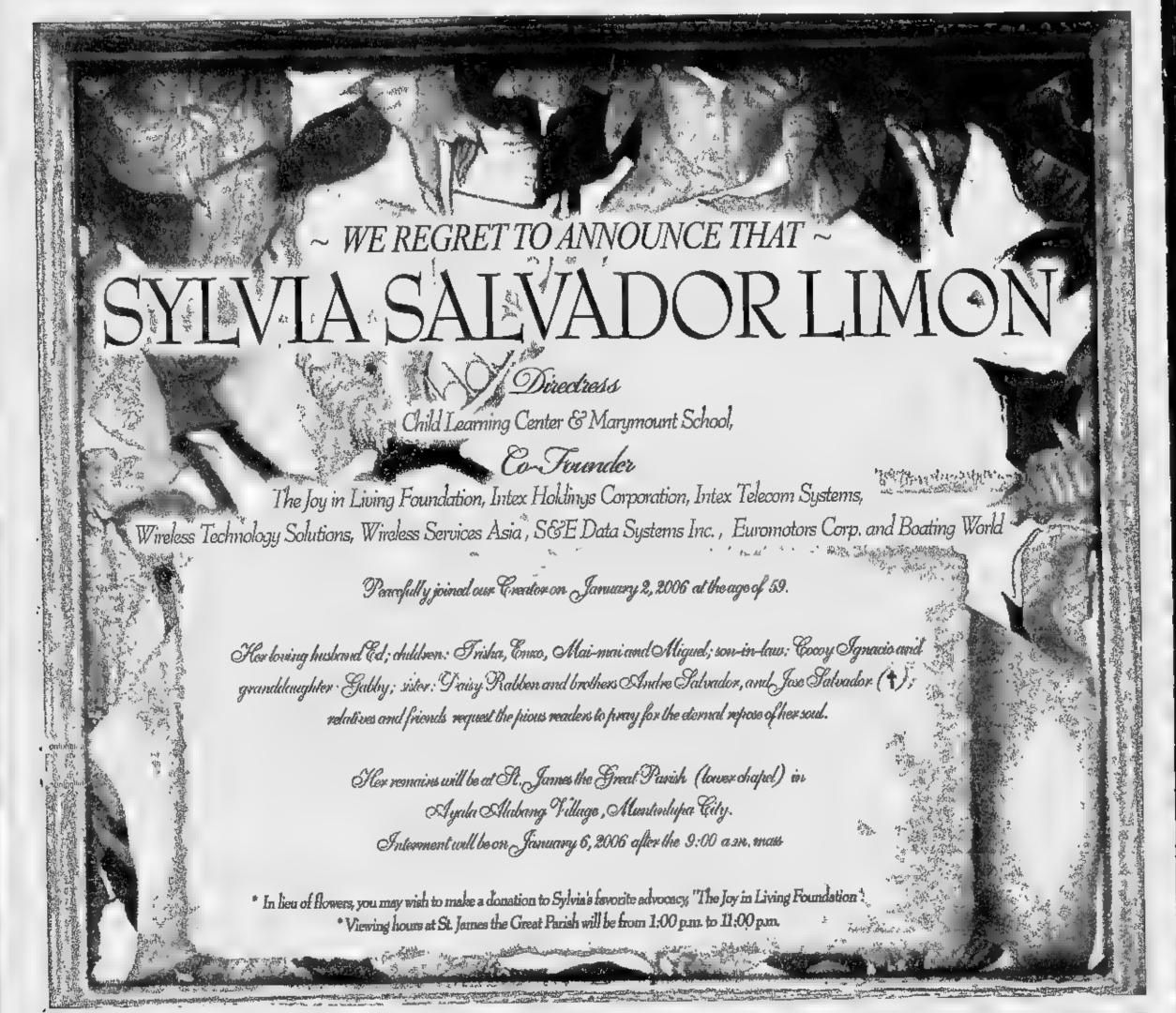
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OBITUARIES



Francisco B. Dela Cruz

Pencefully joined our Lord on January 1, 2006 at the age of 75.

His wife Geny; children Joy & Bernard, Rodolfo & Lissa, Donna & Ed; and grandchildren Byron, Bea, Kaye, Dino, Irish, Becca, Diego, Gab & Reign, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His body lies in state at the Dela Cruz's Residence at #59 Palawan St., Bago-Bantay, Quezon City

Interment will be on Sunday, January 8, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ALBERTO ENCINARES HEQUIBAL

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord on December 24, 2005

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who helped us, grieved with us with their presence, prayers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil and who in countless ways comforted us in our bereavement.

Our Most Sincere Gratitude

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Cortniidans 5:8

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life, I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come ... " Psaim 23:6

DIADORO F. EVANGELISTA

"Dody"

Peacefully joined his Creator and wife, Charito on January 3, 2006 at the age of 89.

His children Ronnie and Thelma, Jody, Bobby and Felicia, Rowie; grandchildren Rachel, Rhoanne, Raymond (†), Michael, Boobee, Mark, Samara, Billy, Patricia, great grandchild Ysabella request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City and will be transferred to the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Quezon City on January 4, 2006 at 12:00 noon.

Cremation will be on January 7, 2006 at La Funeraria Paz after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sta. Rita Parish Church, Q.C.

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BENIGNO DE SALES, SR.

Died peacefully on January 1, 2006 at the age of 71

His loving wife Elizabeth, children Bing, Duday, Juboy, Marco, Gracita, Bebeth Joy and Lavinia, grandchildren and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City and will be transferred to Pulupandan, Negros Occidental on January 6, 2006. Interment will be on Monday, January 9, 2006 at Pulupandan

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, Matthew 11:28 and I will give you rest.

য়ার্ক্তর স্বর্ভারত হয় ১৯৯% ভারত ব্যবহর সং

Our Beloved Daddy

which will be a supplied the state of the state of the supplied of the supplied that the supplied to the supplied the supplied the supplied to the supplied the supplied the supplied to the suppli

Edilberto "Agi" Ponce Diaz

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 3, 2006 at the age of 73.

He is survived by his wife Tess; children and children-in-law Vojie, Jojo & Jing, Tess & Denis, Edison and Eddie Boy; grandchildren, brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces.

His family will receive relatives and friends at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City until Thursday morning, January 5, 2006. He will then be brought home to his beloved Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Friday afternoon, January 6, 2006 at the Ala-Ala Memorial Park in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII

PAWING, PALO, LEYTE Tel, Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084) Fex No. 053-323-3061

MINITATION TO APPLY FOR BEGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY & YO BID PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION VIII

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all Interested Private Security Agencies The National Food Authority and its bid for provision of Security Services for Calendar Year 2006 at NFA Regional Office No. VIII. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into tota with one province treated se one (1) Lot, to will

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	NO. OF SG'8	FOR THE CONTRACT
1 2 3 4 5	NORTHERN LEYTE SOUTHERN LEYTE BILIFAN WESTERN SAMAR NORTHERN SAMAR	24 10 4 8 19	P 2,063,540.00 1,278,600.00 511,440.00 1,150,740.00 2,429,340.00
6	EASTERN SAMAR	78	1,534,320.00 P 9,873,080.00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretarial after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P7,500,00). The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Cate		
		C-200	- 1

Jan. 19, 2006 (5:00 pm)

ian. 25, 2006 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Jan. 26, 2006 (2100 pm) Feb. 7, 2006 (9:30 am)

Jan. 5-16, 2006 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) Issuance of Registration, Eligibility and Bid Documents (NFA-ROVIII) Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents issuance of Cartificate of Registration Notice of Eligibility Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conf. Rm) Submission & Opening of Bids (NFA-ROS Conference Rm)

Autivity

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the prebidding conference and during the opening of the bids shell be required

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Sids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority

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5pm at the Ang Bahay ng Alumei, UP Campus, Diliman,

regarding this event through the following: Telefax No 926 4162, Tel. No. 929 5835; or e-mail

upjoblair2006@yahoo.com. You may also reach us

through any of the following: (Jill) 0917.8158540,

(Maile) 0919.5608386, (Pete) 0915.4082972, (Kristy)

0916.2034170, (Crystle) 0917.8584532.

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(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE Asst Regional Manager W Chairman-RBAC, NFA-ROVIII

(PDI-Dec. 29, 2006 & Jun. 4, 2006)

Quezon City

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale are seven residential lots formerly belonging to the Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank), whereby six lots are located at Peninsula Homes, Subdivision, Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon;

These seven residential lots are being offered on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, as follows.

Peninsula Homes Subdivision, Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon

SITE NO.	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	AREA (sq.m.)	PRICE
1	T-390084	Lot-8	120	54,000
2	T-390103	Lot-6, Blk 6	230	150,000
3	₹ 390089	Lot-7, 88k. 6	204	133.000
4	T 390051	Lot-6	89	· · · ·
5	T-390061	Lot-12, Blk. 6		148,000
6	T-39007B	Lot-1	117	47,000

San Vicente, Gumaca, Quezon

SITE NO.	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	AREA (sq.m.)	INDICATIVE PRICE
7*	T-411949	Lot-9239	348	49,000

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors on 17 January 2006, 6th Floor, PMO Conference Room, NDMC Building, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Offer for Sale documents for a nominal fee of P300.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gambos Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or 817-8762

PH-1m, 3,445,5 2000

CLASSIFIEDS

and one lot is located at San Vicente, Gumaca, Quezon.

SITE NO.	TCT NO.	LOT NO.	AREA (sq.m.)	PRICE
1	T-390084	Lot-8	120	54,000
2	T-390103	Lot-6, Blk 6	230	150,000
3	₹ 390089	Lot-7, 88k. 6	204	133.000
4	T 390051	Lot-6	89	: ', <u>(</u> , <u>(</u> , .
5	T-390061	Lot-12, Blk. 6		148,000
6	T-39007B	Lot-1	117	47,000

With informal dwellers

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT 119: Judice: Region BRANCH 10

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CORPORATE REHABILITATION OF

J. S. GAISANO, INC.,

STAY ORDER

By this PETITION, J. S. Guissono thou is doministic corporation duly organized and additing andler and by virtue of the level of the Prefippines, with principal offices at 78 cor. Susce and Se. Ass Streets, Device City, neeks the approved of its Retubrisation Plan attached to the

petitioner alleged that is was primarily established to engage in the business of retail mechanicating and was, until 1992, the feeding real operator in Daviso City, employing more than 2.000 employees and vortices, if buther alleged that aller its incorporation is 1976 its established other stores up that in 1985 established in Taguro, Daviso del Norie the US Galsano writch at this tens was the most advanced supermativit and department store in the feeding it wunted its sentices from merchanisising to food and vess in the notest of buther expansion when it was this by the in 1994, which guited its shore and loud centers. It has accordingly schlaved the reputation of being a merchanishing supert and was a warded. The Most Curistoting Countryside investor of the Year' by the Philippine Chamber of Commence and Jobustry. However, because of the upstudge of histosis rain resulting from the Asian financial criefs in 1997 it expensions the actions from bank produces. To solve the City to pay its meditors feering the Development Bond of the Philippines as its core bank creditor, holding several valuable proporties in Material totaling 17 hectures.

Publisher admits that it has subsquate research to jumpstart its business in gnother form, if

Politioner admits that it has adequate namets to jumpeter its business in unother form. It has still its fitation properties which adequate namets to jumpeter its business in unother form. It has still its fitation properties which adequate the Sth. Lucie Development Corporation has expressed as retiringness to lend its properties, credits, expertise and personnel to develop the same at into a mosel residented and commercial subclusters. Hence, pertionar prays for the issuence of an order to stay all classes against it in the meantitie that the rehabilitation plus is

Princing the polition to be sufficient in form and substance, Mr. Jesus Jaime C. Lentin, of 0101 Basten conter Deveo Str. Intuiter Village II, Landing Deveo City, Philippenes petitioner's naminals is besidy apposited rehabitables receiver in accordance with the intent Bules of Procedure on Corporate Planetsidabate, which took effect on December 15, 2000 Mr. Jesus James C. Lantin is required to post a bond hereby fixed at ONE MILLION (P1,000,000,000,00). PESOS in layor of J. S. Gastano, Inc. to guistance the fastiful performance of his functions as receiver. He is directed to signify his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment within then (10) days from receipt of this order

The enterestrant of all dains, whether for money or otherwise and whether by court action or otherwise, against the perfector, its guaranters and sursites sot moldarly lightle with the debter e hereby STAYED.

The patitioner is haveby prohibited from setting, encumbering, transferring or disposing, at any manner, of its properties except in the ordinary course of business

it is prohibited from making any payment of its fieldities outstanding as of the date of

The explains of goods and services of the pateroner are prohibited from withholding supplies thereof in the ordinary mourse of business as long as the latter payer for services and goods supplied wher the escence of this stay order.

The petitioner is hereby directed to pay to full all administrative, liabilities to be incurred after the issuance of this STAY ORDER

The infliet intering of this petition is hamily set on January 26, 2005, at 8:30 in the morning. The petitioner is directed to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Delty Inquier once is week for two (2) consecutive weeks starting not lesse than severa (7) days then the All creditors and off other interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are hereby directed to be and serve on the personer and upon the Count a version comment on or opposition to the patient, with supporting attributes and documents not later than ten (10) days before the date of the Instal hearing and putting them on notice that

her fedure to do so will bur them from perhapsing in the proceedings. The creditors and interested parties are hereby directed to secure from the Court copies of the position and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to tile their comment ender opposition to the position and to propose for the Intel hearing on January 25, 2006.

privatives they will be besself from participating in the proceedings of this case. The petitioniar is hereby directed to immediately move a copy of this Order and the Petition with Annexes on his Jesus Jame C. Lendin, who is requested to menter his acceptance or non-acceptance of this appointment not taker than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order

Given the 28th day of December 2005, at Dayno City. Philippines

(Sgd.) JAIME V. QUITARN Judge

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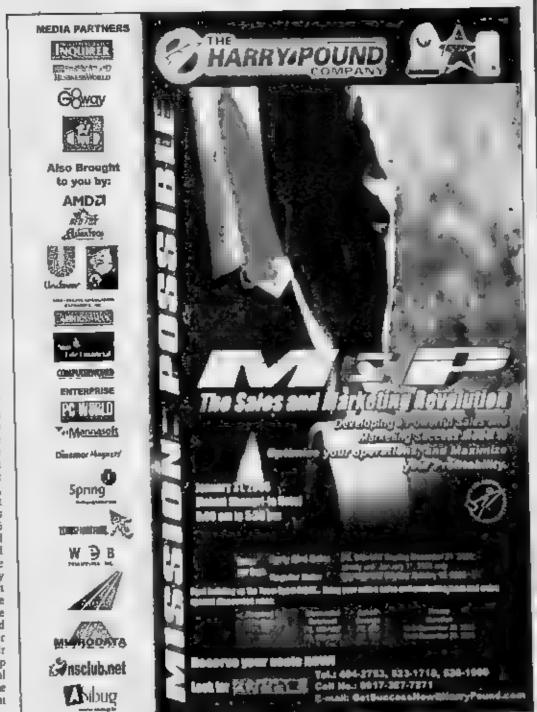
Atty: Marcial D. T. Balgos 1009 West Takthe Tower PSEC Bldg. Exchange Road, Ortiges Center, Pasig City Mr. Jestin Jaime C. Lantin 0101 Busilen Corner Caven Sta. Insular Village II, Lenang Daveo City Securities and Exchange Commission June Subdivision, Means

Deveo City The Acting Clark of Court

Mail of Justice Ecoland, Devec City

NFA assures of sufficient stock of rice until the middle of '06

A STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF RICE STOCKS BY the National Food Authority along with the inroads made by the Agriculture Department in increasing the production of other food commodities assure the ample supply of the country's basic food needs next year. Practically debunking fears of a rice shortage next year, NPA administrator Gregorio Y Ten, Jr. said that based on the agency's operational distribution target, NFA's rice stocks will last unto June next year. At 478,600 metric tons, the agency's rice stock accounts for 29 percent of the country's total current stock of 1.6 million metric tons (MMT). Household and commercial rice stocks, placed at 790,000 mt and 361,500 MT, respectively, account for the belance. The country is also banking on the increase in palay production. According to Tan, a relatively high sufficiency level in rice requirement in 2004 can be duplicated this year through sustained planting of the regular cerufied rice and the expansion of area planted to hybrid rice. As there was no major weather disturbance occurring lately, the country has a fair chance of achieving good harvest for the main crop from October to early next year For additional information, queries and complaints on rice supply the public is advised to contact NFA through Text NFA at mobile number 0917-6210927



Republic of the Philippines Board of Investments

PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY 29/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City Tel. No.: (632) 848-1412 to 16 Fax (632) 848-1411

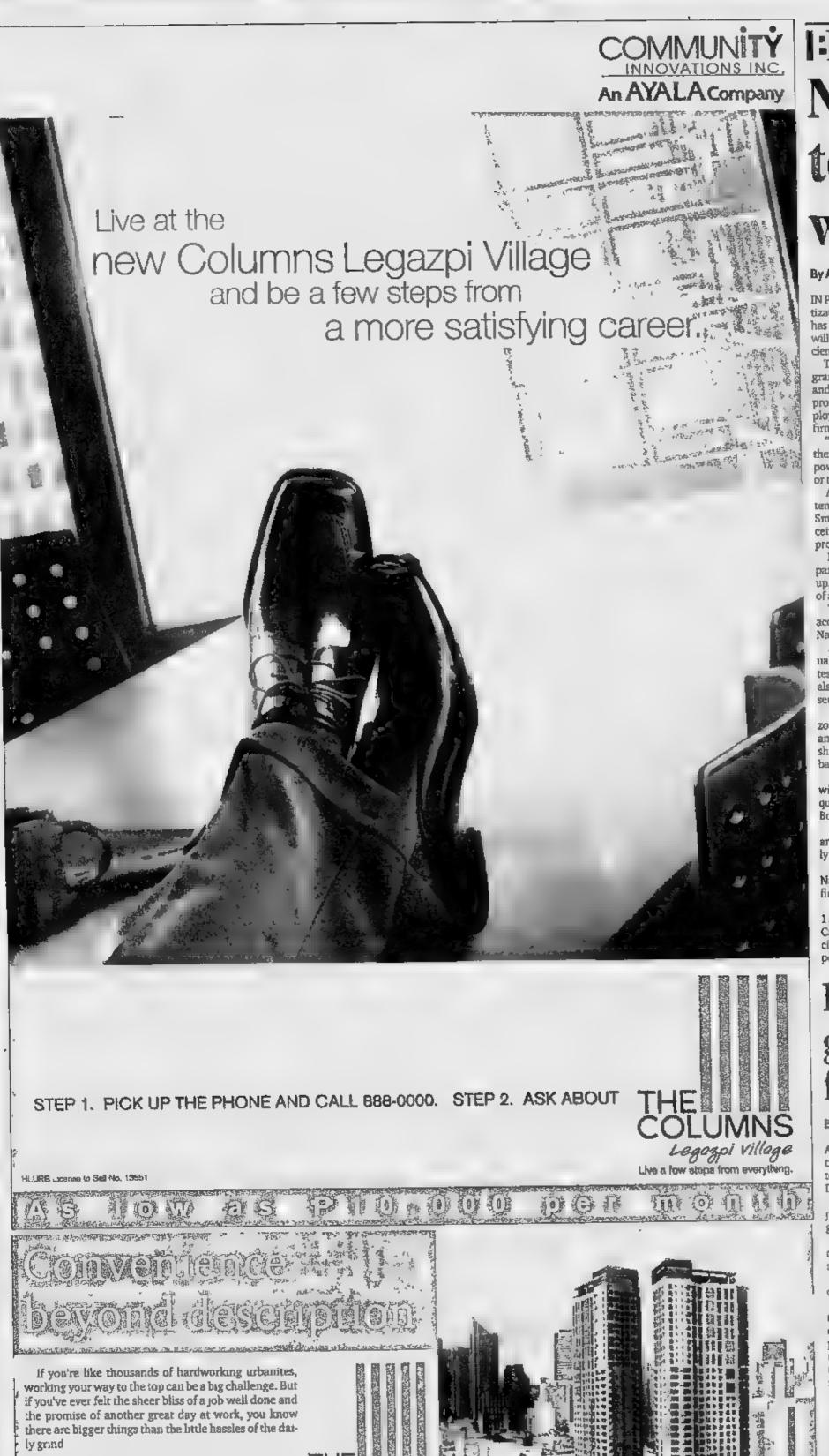
INVITATION FOR OTTER TO SELL

Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), a government corporation, is Interested to buy ONE FLOOR OFFICE CONDOMINIUM UNIT, APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND SQ.M. within Makati Business Center area or Global City (The Fort). Direct seller only.

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BEN, GIL PUYAT AVENUE ARNAIZ AVENUE

B 10

WEDNESDAY, **JANUARY 4, 2006**

Napocor to certify workers

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS EVENTUAL PRIVAtization, the state-run National Power Corp. has begun offering a certification program that will equip its employees with more-than-sufficient skills in operating power plants.

The certificates to be issued under the program—an mitiative of the state firm's training and development department-are meant to provide "concrete proof" that Napocor employees are qualified to operate the state firm's generation facilities.

"[Napocor employees] can then present their certificates to the future owners of our power plants," said Reynaldo Bongao, Napocor technical training division manager.

Already, 14 Napocor operations and maintenance personnel under the state firm's Small Power Utilities Group (Spug) have received their certificates for completing the

Before taking the certification exam, the participants are required to attend a standup, classroom-type training for the operation of a Dale-Perkins generating set.

They will then take written examinations according to their respective positions in the Napocor-Spug organization.

After that, they will be interviewed individually to assess and review the validity of the test instruments used. The participants will also be given the chance to ask questions and seek clarifications. Six assessors from the Napocor-Spug Lu-

zon operations will also test the participants and evaluate their skills in starting up and shutting down a Dale-Perkins generating set, based on Start-up and Shutdown Procedures.

"With the certification, our plant personnel will have concrete proof that they are really qualified to operate our generation facilities," Bongao said.

Napocor, through the Power Sector Assets and Liabilines Management Corp., is currently going through a process of privatization.

So far, Psalm has been able to sell five Napocor hydropower plants and one coal-

These are the 3.5-megawatt (MW) Taiomo, 1.6-MW Agusan, 1.8-MW Barit, 0.4-MW Cawayan and 1.2-MW Loboc hydropower facilines, and the 600-MW Masmloc coal-fired power plant.

DA sees weak growth in '05 farm output

By Christine A. Gaylican

A PROLONGED 2005 DRY SPELL LIKELY trimmed growth in the country's farm sector to about 2.5 percent, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban yesterday said

The preliminary figure fell below the adjusted 2005 full-year government growth target of 3.2 percent.

Also, the expected growth in farm output is considerably lower than the 5 percent posted

Agriculture accounts for about a fifth of the country's economic output

"It would be safe to say that total output of this major economic sector for the entire year could end up only slightly better than two percent, assuming that the production performance in the fourth quarter (was) much better than in the first nine months," Pangamban

According to Romeo Recide, director of the DA's Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), some 600,000 metric tons of rice and comcrops were lost in the drought and flooding that occurred in the Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon regions.

The drought in the first half of the year had had badly hit vital crops. Output actually declined by 0.32 percent during the first three quarters, said the BAS in its report.

Heavily hit by the dry spell were palay, com and sugarcane. Palay output fell 2.34 percent, while corn harvests dropped 2.31 percent.

Sugarcane felt 14.81 percent.

Fortunately, coconut producers maintained steady growth at 3.74 percent. Other cash crops, such as mango and coffee, improved outputs by 4.95 percent and 2.07 percent, respectively. The limited government budget and the

high cost of farm inputs had affected the agriculture sector's growth in 2005, according to Dr. Rolando Dy, executive director of UAP's Center for Food and Agri Business.

"The agriculture sector's growth is still bet-ter than the average growth rate of 2.6 percent attained in the years 1994 to 2003," Dy noted. "But there would be a slowdown compared to the growth attained in 2004." Panganiban said measures were being un-

dertaken to increase the sector's growth to "not less than four percent" in 2006 This would include better timing in the re-

lease of agricultural funds and more government spending. With a report from AFP

Still, you just know life could be better. And you couldn't be more right.

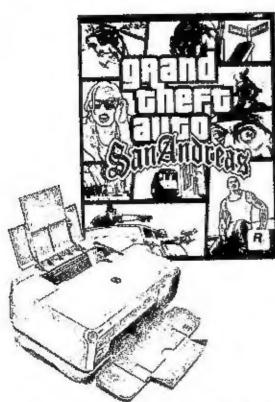
That's what Community Innovations is all about.

After its resounding success with The Columns Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations is breaking ground with a new set of Columns rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village. With the introduction of lofts and hi-level units, The Columns Legazpi Village not only revolutionizes the definition of urban living. it promises to change how you live your life. With the Makati Central Business District practically next door, going to work can literally be a walk in the park. And less time on the road means more time for things that really matter to you, whether it's rushing to close that deal or trying to squeeze in a gym session, or even just looking for a place to unwind and recharge. At The Columns Legazpi Village, a better life, like everything else, is within a few steps.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to young urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of



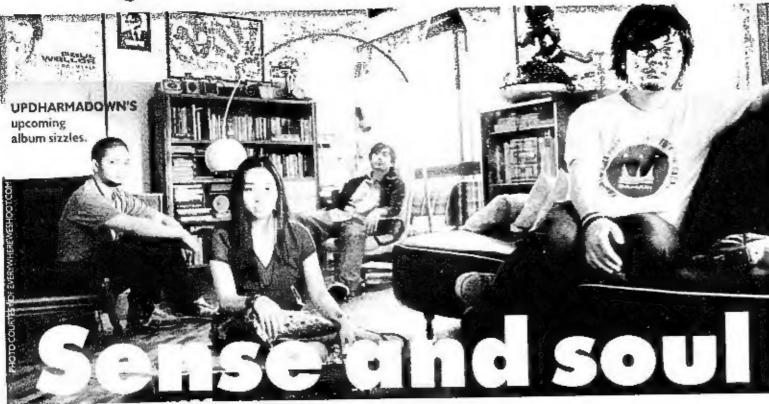
Fearless forecast for 200



The year is off to a rocking start. This week, 2bU! celebrates the new year by peering into our crystal ball and predicting what's going to be big in fashion, music and technology: ruffled tops, gaucho



pants, curly hair, fresh makeup, hot new bands, Web 2.0 and even more exciting games. Are you ready for 2006?







EXPERIENCE Pinoy Soul with Sino Sikat.

New year, new bands! And it's all about mixing sounds, influences and attitudes for a hipper, more exciting local music scene

By Maui V. Reyes

F LAST YEAR WAS ALL ABOUT pop rock, 2006 is about fusing L different genres for a hip new

Meet some of the bands you'll be talking about this year.

Sino Sikat

Mash together jazz, soul, funk, rock and broken beats, and you get Sino Sikat. Lead vocalist Kat Agarrado, formerly with Passage band, says her music is the result of years spent flitting from one genre to another.

"I was doing pop with Passage, then when I left, nag-R&B ako, nag-lounge ako. Tapos nagjazz, tapos nag-jam ako with Wally Gonzales,

so blues classic naman yun..."

Now, with bandmates Allen Umali (bass), Nikki Cabardo (keyboards), Reli de Vera (drums), and Nick Azarcon (guitars), Sino Sikat has began attracting its own following among fans of what the band dubs as "Pinoy Soul." Describe your music.

Di ko alam! Iba-iba, hindi talaga ma-de-

scribe. Bawat kanta may maririnig kang jazz, trip-hop, rock, electronica. Tinawag kong "Pinoy Soul." Kasi tayong mga Pinoy, madami tayong mga influences, kahit nga yung Kundiman hindi naman sa atin, sa Spaniards siya. Kaya nga meron tayong Pinoy Rock, Pinoy Jazz, OPM. Koya kami, Pinoy Soul.

2005 was the year of pop rock. What do you think 2006 will be?

Ang lulupit ng mga lalabas na banda. Magkakalabasan ng mga talenti Mas magkakaroon ng choices ang mga tao. Aban-SENSE/CD



THE BOYS of Dicta License



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MAKEUP is fresh and fuss-free.

STOCK up on your basic neutrals with tops in cream, black and white. Fashion forward

By Bianca Consunji 2bU! Correspondent

ASHION LOVERS WILL HAVE TO start the year with a hangover-of 2005's fashion, that is. While the bohemian look will be nowhere near the runways this season, designers and retail brands are still taking their cues from the Edwardian and Victorian influences of the last quarter of 2005.

Because the country's tropical climate makes it impractical for women to wear high necklines and long skirts, fashion fanat-ics can still get their fill of the romantic period with basic tops and skirts embellished with ruffles, lace, princess sleeves, rolled edges and plait straps.

In Chocolate Clothing Co.'s upcoming Earth Angel collection, these are the things to look out for, as well as beads, glitter, pompoms, diamond-trimmed tops and Edwardian jerseys.

Also take note of jeans in light washes, cropped trucker jackets, printed hoodies, shrugs, cargo pants and chiffon halters. Crochet tops, popcorn lace tops, crushed velvet, baby doll tops, and even more vintage will be in for the upcoming seasons.

Top retail brand Freeway also focuses on the Victorian look, minus the high collars and long sleeves. This time, the Victorian look is much sexier and more modern, choosing to flaunt curves instead of hiding

The sentiment is echoed by fashion chain Cinderella, which will carry Victorian-inspired frills, ruffles and lace detail. Also, expect more satin and chiffon, textured puffy skirts, and '60s and preppy pieces in the future collections.

Aside from Victorian, Russian baroque fashion may be found in a few key pieces for the season: Tsarina-inspired looks, Cossack and military fashion (no loose cargos, though—the pieces are tighter and sexier, with figure-flattering jackets, capris and tops in camouflage, fatigue and khaki). Looking for these Russian- and army-inspired pieces? Check out Cinderella and Solo (a retail brand for men and women).

If looking like a war freak isn't your thing, opt for dresses, which will always be classic. However, this year's dresses are loose and flowing, as opposed to overly tight numbers. Look out for Grecian-style threads, with the hemlines a bit longer this time.

Delicate tops

The first quarter of the year calls for delicate tops in neutral shades such as pale ivory, nude, pastels and cream. Basics such as black, khaki, gray, navy blue, burgundy, teal and plum are also palettes to look out

Although metallic accessories are still acceptable, this season's shades are more muted and a lot less shiny than the "hello world, look at me" gold bags, belts, jewelry and

Shorts and cropped pants are still big, with cropped pants available in varying leg widths, from fitted to wide-leg gauchos-perfect for the upcoming hot months. These shorts come in all styles and fabrics, from soft cotton gauchos paired with tank tops, to tailored cropped pants that can go from the mail to the office.

For its part, fashion outlet Ensembles says go for all-out prints, colors and textures for a retro feel.

Josle Go of Karimadon suggests stocking up on cotton tunics, tanks and basic tees to go with bubble skirts, gaucho/palazzo pants, distressed jeans, cropped jackets, and shorts. And look for dresses for all occasions METALLIC accessories this year are more in hot fabrics such as cotton, satin, velvet subdued. and chiffon.

Shoe styles spotted on the runway are Mary Jane pumps and pretty heels (try telling that to Havaianas addicts).

Fresh-faced beauty

Beauty is more low-key this season as glowing skin, flushed cheeks, and fuss-free updos, braids and ponyrails take center

Say goodbye to the pasty goth look as this season calls for flawless skin, the perfect pink blush, light lip gloss, and pastel eye shadow - white seems to be a favorite in the European runways, but it may make smaller Asian eyes look nonexistent. Go for pale pastels instead to create that almost ethereal

Hair also stays soft and natural (do not rebond your hair!) so digital perms and soft yahoo.com

EXPECT lots of Victorian-inspired

LANCÔME'S

Enchantress look focuses on pink and

purple hues for

Spring/Summer 2006.

bows and ruffles.

braids are the way to go.

Xeng Zuluera of Shu Uemura suggests a more feminine look for Spring/Summer with their Sweet Mode collection, inspired by yummy colors such as apricot, plumeria, caffe creme and vanilla sugar. She also recommended products with varied textures. such as eye jellies with a matte finish.

According to Zerline Chan from Lancôme, spring/summer's look should be reminiscent of fairies. "The Enchantress," as their season's look is called, contains shimmery pastel colors with metallic glimmer. The look is composed of eye colors in pinks. purples and greens, while key lip hues include pearly pink and plum.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunjus



BOWS are big this season.

GAUCHO pants are good for the



DRESSES are

flowing, almost

loose and

Grecian-

Inspired.

By Gabriel H. Mercado 2bUI Contributor

HERE'S NOTHING FEARLESS about making "fearless tech forecasts." On the contrary, my forecasts are full of fear, because writing a tech forecast is about as close as I can get to impaling myself in public. But here goes, nevertheless.

• Web 2.0 (and other "cool" words). Trying to decipher what Web 2.0 means will take up half this space, but from an "underlying purpose" point of view, Web 2.0 is the culmination of self-publication (blogs), and the need to receive, collaborate and work together on the informa- I understand, but at least it makes me tion it produces. Hence, there are sites look smart, which is the point. such as DIGG.com, del.icio.us, technorati formation processed elsewhere, while re-Hant on these technologies.

True to form, Web 2.0 is beyond websites, being heavily dependent on technologies that allow writers like me to let loose a slew of techie words: Splogs, Peeds, RSS, Atom, XML, Aggregators, Wikis, Reblogs, SEO-only some of which

If 'Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas,' my vote for 2005's Game Of The Year, is any indication, then we're in for a more thrilling experience this 2006



Web 2.0 is what the web should be. This is and even the local oks.ph that deliver in- far beyond your average blog. This is the "new" Internet designed and funded by techies as well, the only way to get really exciting stuff out the door and into daily use.

· Games with a wider scope, Look-

Feedster



ing into what people want from gaming, it's important to know what they don't want: predictable artificial intelligence. Scary-themed games that shock and gross you out rather than are truly creepy. Real-Time Strategy games that are exercises in micro-managing wood, stone, gold and crystals ad nauseam, and button-mashers that test the limits not of





your intelligence, but of your mouse.

game pad and thumb.

If "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas. my vote for 2005's Game Of The Year, is any indication, then we're in for a more thrilling experience this 2006. There's the standard challenges you have to pass, but watching CJ Johnson, the game's primary character, perform them is a treat. CJ solves the mystery of his mothet .

death while listening to '90s classic song hits, driving any type of vehicle in any way you want across various environ ments including a city, countryside beaches, desert and miles of miles of roads. These places are so detailed that you'll spend hours just walking, running. driving, flying and jet-packing around it

Truth is, none of the individual inapy. tions in GTA San Andreas is special in a self. Rather, it's the collection and full application of these features that give the player such a satisfactory feeling. But the irony here is with so much to do and ... many things to try, this game works lacause it provides something a gandoesn't have—an experience of real life



gan niyo ang mga bandang UpDharmaDown at Giniling Festival. Tataas

Tang standard ng pop sa Pilipinas. What can we expect from Sino Sikat in 2006?

Sasabog kaming parang bombal Hindi lang maganda yung quality ng music, pati performance namin, maganda. Lalabas na ang album namin sa February or March. Marami kaming guests sa album, tulad ni Vic Mercado and Ian Umali. Yung iba, surprise na

UpDharmaDown

UpDharmaDown is a mixture of four individuals who left their previous groups and formed a new band where each of their musical influences gets mixed up to form music like no other. The band recently bagged the In the Raw award at the 2005 NU Rock Awards, and vocalist Armi Millare hopes their luck will hold.

Try to describe your music.

It's a combination of four people who bring different genres to the table. . . I like soul, and I'm the lyricist, so I come up with the melody Paul [Yap, bassist] also writes lyrics, and he's into rock, but lately he's into industrial music. Carlos [Tañada, lead guitars] likes ambient music and classical rock. Ean [Mayor, drums] likes electronica music, so he's the mastermind of all the electronica beats you hear.

Do you think this fusion of music will be a hit in 2006?

There are a lot of bands that came out last year [that play soul], but the majority are independent groups. So it's really up to the people in the industry if they will give independent bands like us some room on their playlists.

What can we expect from Up-DharmaDown in 2006?

Our album! We finished it very recently. We'll be launching that. Then we're shooting our second video, "Pag-Agos."

Juan Pablo Dream

The band's video for its original song, "Nice Place," features Philippine movie icon Tony Ferrer. Can you say "Mod"? Channeling the sounds of '60s Motown, Northern Soul and '60s bop rock, Juan Pablo Dream received nods at the 2005 MTV Pilipinas



Awards for Best New Artist and Best Independent Video.

Dicta License

Since coming together six years ago, Dicta License has evolved from "the Pinoy version of Rage Against the Machine" to an eclectic mix of rock, rap, hip-hop and soul. With their debut album, "Panghilom," Pochoy Labog (vocals), Bryan Makasiar (drums), Boogie Romero (guitars) and Kelley Mangahas (bass) are ready to rock our radios in 2006.

How did it feel like to be compared to Rage Against the Machine? Initially, it affected us. Boogie thought it was a compliment. For some of us, panget yun, kasi nagmukha kaming copycat, just because Pochoy raps. Now, if people listen to the album, it's not as Rage Against the

a lot of singing in the album, too. How hard has the past six years

Machine as one would think. There's

Very hard. It's been a long road. As a band, there have been lots of conflicts. We were about to call it quits, but then we were given the opportunity to sign up with Warner Music. Nabuhayan ulit yung banda. This alburn, "Panghilom," is six years in the

making. What can we expect from you in 2006?

We're going to continue promoting the album. There will be lots of gigs. Expect music in 2006 to be a bit heavy. Urban Dub is coming out with a new album, so is Cheese. There's going to be a healthy rock scene.

Sun Valley Crew

This isn't your usual garden-variety hip-hop group. The band that got together a decade ago with only three members has expanded to seven members, bringing together musicians from the hip-hop, electronica, and rock scene to produce a fresh, groove-worthy sound. Vocalist Uela Basco is the only female of the group.

Describe SVC's sound. Hip-hop and R&B, like "The Roots." But Sun Valley Crew has evolved na talaga, kasi kahit na hiphop kami, nakakasama namin mga taga-indie rock scene. Every time we have a gig, which is usually in Big Sky Mind or Saguijo, other musicians jam with us, like Buddy Zabala (of the Dawn), Vin Dancel (of Twisted Halo), the guys from Bagetsafonik.

What can we expect from SVC in

Sana malabas na yung fourth album namin. And the album is going to be great, unlike the third album where there was no band. And Kakoi Legaspi (formerly of Barbie's Cradle) is joining the band.

We think it's going to be a year of hot concertsboth by local and foreign acts. Here's

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Jason Mraz comes back to Manila

FAST-TALKING, GUTTAR-PLUCKING word- and perspective to resonate though a husmith Jason Mraz has orbited two albums, a world of music festivals and a whole stretch of earth to get to where he is: a geeky songwriter in the pink of platinumselling health. Now, Mr. A-Z-which is incidentally also the name of his sophomore album—is expanding his musical horizons by reaching out to awed audiences here in the Philippines.

"While the reality-based, tongue-incheek freshman of 'Waiting for my Rocket' is back again," says the gangly Mraz, "I also wanted Mr. A-Z to suggest that I was ready to reveal a little more about myself. The stories within these songs find your humble King of Denial having a go at my own placement in relationships lost and found again, in the ever-changing music business, as a geek and an artist."

Mraz continues, "On Mr. A-Z, I'm posing as the more appropriate sophomore, unafraid to admit my mistakes, good-natured in my verbal attacks, yet still hanging on to enough of that sophomoric angle to avoid playing it safe. I want to allow my wisdom

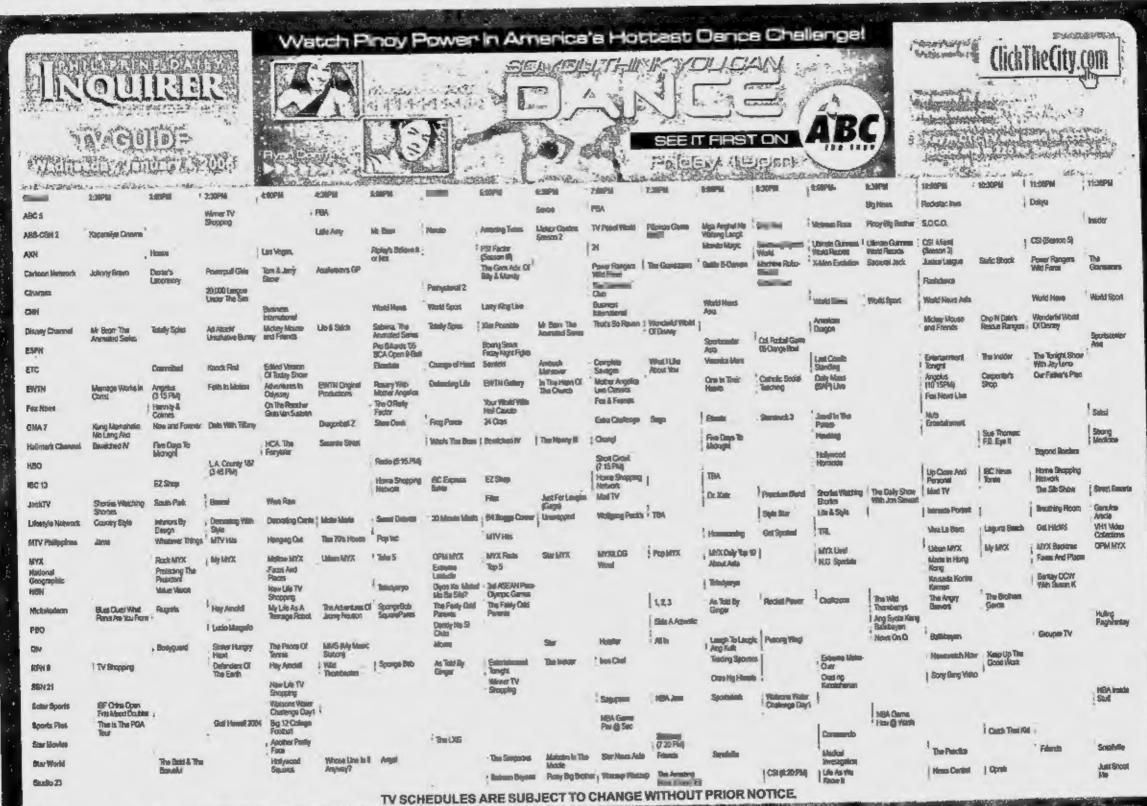
morous persona that until now I'd only used in the live experience."

The upbeat Mr. A-Z single "Wordplay" is such an example of the trademark Mraz wit. "It's a straight satire on what a first single should sound like," he explains. "It's a track composed by a happy little boy making a masterful mockery of his own agenda, beating the average critic to the punch, if I do say so myself."

Now that he's throwing more punches, experimenting with more grooves and soundscapes while being in total character, Jason Mraz is sounding better than ever. So it won't be a surprise to find the Rockwell and NBC venues packed with converts for "Jason Mraz Live in Manila."

Ticket rates: Jan. 20, Rockwell Tent, P2.000 and P1,000; and Jan. 21, NBC Tent, P2,000, P1,500, P1,000, and P500. Tickets available at SM Ticketner outlets.

"Waiting for My Rocket to Come" and "Mr. A-Z" by Jason Mraz are distributed by Warner Music Philippines and available in music stores nationwide.



ng ulat-pangmula

Ating kabalitaan -Cherl Mercado

Dito lang sa ABC





CANON PIXMA IP3000 Printer to the holiday rescue

By Gabriel H. Mercado 2bUl Contributor

O BE HONEST, IT'S BEEN A LONG while since I've tried out a printer of any kind. My work as a web developer is to blame, as dexterity in things related to the Internet and anything electronic allows one to move around relatively paperless. I have, however, worked with printers great and small in the past, from huge hulking lasers to swift, silent inkjets and enormous buzzing dot matrices.

And so I approached the Canon Pixma iP3000 with a measure of trepidation, not only due to insecurity over my lack of recent printer experience, but also because I would have to find things to print.

Fortunately, I found ways to go around both before submission time. It was Christ-

mas during the time of this review, and I happened to have a bored 11-year-old

See, Christmas means Christmas decorations, and a young "Art Artack"-brainwashed niece means someone in the house who likes to make them. Throw the Canon Pixma iP3000 into the mix, and you have a Christmas décor-making factory (sans Neil Buchanan's British accent, but trust me it's of-

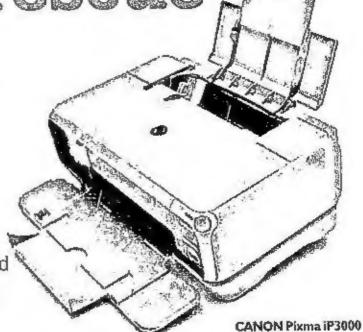
Further, throw in the photos I took with the superlative Canon Camedia C-480 Zoom and Fujitsu Finepix F-810 cameras previously lent for review by Digital Exchange (Glorietta 3), and we had a bonanza of all things Christmasy for the holiday season.

All-purpose

The Canon Pixma iP3000 is an all-pur- décor factory



Pair a Canon Pixma iP3000 with an 'Art Attack'-brainwashed niece, and you've got an instant



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Mechanics:

i. rromo Period: 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006.

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DISNEP * VISA

pose "photo printer" that uses bubble-jet technology. It employs four cartridges which produce four ink colors, and resolutions of 600 x 600 dpi for black and 4800 x 1200 dpi for color. Print speed is an impressive 22 pages per minute (ppm) for black and 15 ppm for color. A true-color photograph can take approximately 36 seconds to print, although that can vary widely depending on

PictBridge capability-that godsend of an application for photo-happy digital camera owners and printers alike-is blessedly present on the iP3000, while the usual plethora of photo-editing and printing software drivers for different operating systems are there as well, so Mac users are well repre-

You can print on the usual legal, letter and envelope sizes, plus the rather lengthily named "Canon Photo Paper Plus Glossy 4" x 6" Sample Pack," and even on CD-R and DVD-R printable disks. A CD Tray is included for this purpose.

Aesthetically, the iP3000's dark gray casing when closed makes it look like, well, a breadbox. Canon probably designed it for a gray cubicle type of working application, and, admittedly, that would fit its 16.5" x 6.8° quite nicely.

There's really nothing wrong with looking like a misplaced kitchen appliance. However, a posh workplace would best consider a cabinet or at least some covering, as the printer's gray hulk would surely clash with the wood paneling and gold-plated lamp.

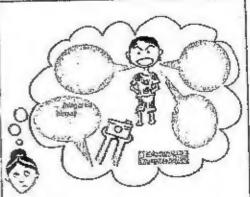
The printer does not come with a cable, it can use either a USB or parallel cable, so it leaves you to make that choice. But it can be frustrating, as it took me a while to find someone to lend me one.

Functional

Srill, the Canon Pixma (P3000 is a breeze to set up and get running. It looks rather impressive with all its access nodes open, like something hostile the Starship Enterprise might have encountered in deep space. But it's very functional and easy enough to fig-

Overall, I was impressed primarily with the iP3000's speed and quiet operation. Bored niece and holiday season notwithstanding, the Canon iP3000 is a solid performer and a good daily photo printer.

Check it out at the Canon store at Digital Exchange G3.



We have a winner!

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Katrien Dagmang of Marikina City has won an Olympus C-480, thanks to her hilarious Power Point presentation. You made our first day back at work even more fun. With your creativity, we know you can maximize the use of this camera, Katrien. Please call Ching de la Cruz at 8978808 for details on how to claim your

prize. You, too, can be a winner! This week, 2bU! and Digital Exchange are giving away a Canon Pixma iP3000. If you want to join our contest, tell us why you deserve to win this printer in the most creative way you can. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget your name, school/office and contact infol